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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

MR. GLADSTONE'S Budget is satisfactory, or not, according to your political principles—supposing that you *have* political principles; or rather, according to the party you belong to—supposing that you belong to a party, which very few persons in the present day not actively engaged in politics really do. It of course fills Mr. Disraeli with despair; but, on the whole, we think the country will be inclined to leave that able gentleman to lament by himself, and to accept the Budget for what it really is—a well and moderately-contrived financial scheme, elaborated under circumstances of great difficulty, and at a very critical period. As for the speech in which the Budget was presented, nothing could have been more clear and comprehensive, and at the same time nothing could have been more interesting, and, considering the nature of the subject, more amusing than that very long, but never for one moment tedious, discourse.

If all bills for payment were presented in such an agreeable manner, one would almost feel a pleasure in paying them. The Chancellor of the Exchequer admits himself that his charges are rather high, and laments that the English nation (as represented—more or less—by the House of Commons and the Ministry) is extravagant. But if a man *will* have stout, serviceable, well-made boots and clothes, he must expect to pay for them; and if a nation *will* protect itself against whatever weather may threaten it from abroad, it also must pay. Still, it is rather curious to find the very man who presents the bill regretting its magnitude and declaring that in future it must be kept down, or he will not answer for the consequences, and so on.

Mr. Gladstone is always particularly good when he is on the subject of wine, though he has stated publicly in the House of Commons that he scarcely ever touches it himself, and even that his physician once felt called upon to remonstrate with him on his abstinence and to advise him to profit by his own tariff and consume a certain portion daily of the "natural wine of France." The mention of wine, however, inspires him, as

it did Rabelais, who also is said to have been, for the most part, a water-drinker; and he has sounded the praises of wine and wine-drinking, and even of wine-merchants (whose merits are often, at least, questionable), on so many occasions, and always in such eloquent language, that a heathen stranger on glancing at some of his financial speeches might fancy, for a time, that the national treasury had been placed under the special protection of some British Bacchus. Indeed, the advertisements of wine in the London papers, and the circulars from wine-merchants that are sent round to London houses, are full of allusions to Mr. Gladstone. Men who are quite ignorant of his genius for finance and of his classical and general literary attainments are satisfied, nevertheless, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is a great judge of liquor. To be sure, a stanch Conservative, who with his Conservatism has apparently inherited a distaste for light, thin, sour French wines, denounced Mr. Gladstone and his cheap claret the other night in the House of Commons, and even went so far as to say that the "natural wine of France," of which he so continually makes mention, was, as sold by the London retail dealers, a delusion and an abomination. This violent sort of criticism does not, however, terrify the London wine-merchants, and we find that, within the last few days, a company has been formed for the purpose of deluging the British public with the juice of the French grape, and that the name under which it is enrolled is the "Gladstone Wine Company."

On the subject of money Mr. Gladstone was almost as facetious as on that of wine; indeed wine, money, and love—perhaps the three greatest sources of tragedy in the world—are subjects which (on account no doubt of their very seriousness) every one is allowed to handle in a comic manner if he can. If ever a tax should be imposed on marriage, or if, with the view of increasing the number of marriages per annum, cheap Government marriage licences shall be issued, Mr. Gladstone will assuredly have something pretty and graceful to say about love, and we shall have "Gladstone bridal bouquets" and "Gladstone wedding breakfasts" as we have

now "Gladstone wine companies." There is at least as much to be said in favour of early marriages as of cheap bordeaux.

The Chancellor was jocular on the subject of money, not only when he convulsed the House by announcing that the sum to be paid for brewing licences had been fixed at twelve and sixpence (as though—to repeat his own observation—there was something peculiarly and outrageously ludicrous in the sum mentioned), but, above all, when he stated that he was quite without funds, and that he congratulated himself on his penniless condition, inasmuch as it was impossible now to rob him. His remarks about the happiness of Englishmen in no longer having to pay the taxes which they were in the habit of paying in the days of Sydney Smith were also pleasant but not convincing. At least it would be difficult to convince people, if it is a bad thing to pay taxes indirectly, that it is a good thing to pay them directly. How was it, by-the-way, that Mr. Gladstone, in quoting Sydney Smith's admirable epitome of English taxation, omitted its conclusion, which is the most striking part of the whole passage? He spoke of the taxes on "the ermine that decks the Judge, and the rope that hangs the criminal," of the taxes on "the ribbons of the bride, and on the brass nails of the coffin," and then stopped without giving the climax, which (as nearly as we can remember) is as follows:—"The dying man takes his taxed medicine in a taxed spoon, administered to him by an apothecary who has paid a hundred pounds for the privilege of putting him to death, and he is then gathered to his ancestors to be taxed no more." The reason of the omission was, probably, this, that whereas you can unite yourself in these fortunate days to a lady decked in untaxed ribbons, and can afterwards, if such be your pleasure, hang yourself with an untaxed rope, the taxes on certain kinds of medicine and on apothecaries still exist.

The re-revised code will be brought up again after Easter, and it is to be hoped that in its new shape it will be accepted by the House. The new machinery proposed by Mr. Lowe was doubtless in many respects defective, but the principle on which he wishes to see the Government grant distributed seems



CHANGE OF QUARTERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY.—THE 1ST LIFE GUARDS LEAVING KNIGHTSBRIDGE FOR WINDSOR.

perfectly just, however disagreeable it may be to those who have hitherto been the chief recipients of the money. Whatever may be said about reading and writing not being the only important things in the world, it is unquestionably in order to learn to read and write that children are sent to primary schools. In one of Juvenal's satires a father is represented as calling upon a schoolmaster to return the money which he has paid him for the education of his son, on the ground that the youth has turned out a fool. Mr. Lowe does not go so far as this. He does not say that the teachers at the schools in receipt of Government aid are bound to make the little boys and girls who go there either wise or learned, but simply that they must give them such elementary instruction as all children possessing the usual number of senses are capable of receiving, or, if not, that they must not look to the State for any assistance. Up to the present time an immense number of schools have received Government aid simply on the ground that so many pupils attended them. Mr. Lowe says—"It is not sufficient that they should attend them; it is also necessary to show that they profit by them."

There were two debates last week—one in the Lords and one in the Commons—on the subject of Poland. No one, however, said anything about it that was not already generally known, and the only hope held out to the unfortunate Poles was to the effect that Russia would probably some day, of its own accord, treat them better. Nevertheless these debates (as we have before observed) are not without their use. They serve to keep up the spirit of the Poles and also to warn the three partitioning Powers that they must not carry their persecutions too far, though to what particular limit they may extend them without being interfered with by France and England is not very clear.

CHANGE OF QUARTERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY.

On the morning of Wednesday week the 1st Life Guards took its departure from the Knightsbridge Barracks, to the great grief of the nursemaids, housemaids and cooks of Kensington and its neighbourhood, but who will be, probably, consoled in a reasonable time by the delicate attentions of "the Blues," who succeed the gallant 1st. Although the hour fixed for the departure of these splendid warriors was at that period of the day corresponding with the calls of the "matinal milk," and although, moreover, the rain had come down in a "regular soaker," mitigated, as the hour of departure approached, into a "Scotch mist" or thick drizzle, there was a strong muster of admiring spectators to bid them adieu on quitting this field of their triumphs for the glades of Windsor, there to cause fresh havoc amongst the susceptible hearts of the Berkshire damsels.

The "splendid creatures" got up so regardless of expense, seemed to have undergone an extra polish, if possible, and their breastplates shone like silver mirrors, reflecting, not the sun, for he declined to "show," but the enraptured gaze of numerous housemaids whose worship at the shrine of Mars refused to be prevented by the weather from paying a last tribute to the gallant heroes. At seven precisely the order for march was given, and in a few minutes Knightsbridge was left desolate, with the exception of a solitary dilapidated-looking groon sweeping out untenanted stables, and a cornet-player who attempted to relieve the despondency of the neighbourhood by snatches of popular tunes, the execution of which, however, was of a very spasmodic character.

SHAKESPEARE'S GARDEN.—Mr. J. O. Halliwell has issued a statement respecting the purchase of the Shakespeare property, from which it appears that the original cost of New Place was £1400; that it was then discovered that the poet's great garden, long separated from the garden of New Place, could also be obtained; and that that also had been purchased for £2000. Another property, however, must be bought before the whole of the gardens originally belonging to Shakespeare can be secured to the public; and hence it is estimated that the further sum now required, in luding the laying out of the gardens, amounts to £2800. Mr. Halliwell, therefore, asks for this sum, giving a guarantee that it shall be expended with care and economy, and that the gardens shall be ready for public use by the spring of next year. More rapid progress, he says, is not possible, as possession of Shakespeare's great garden will not be obtained before Michaelmas next.

GROWTH OF COTTON IN ALGERIA.—An English company, with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling, have determined to commence the cultivation of long-staple cotton in Algeria. The French Government has made them a grant of 70,000 acres in the plain of Hora, including 30,000 acres of marsh, which they are to drain. They intend to cut a deep boat canal, construct a harbour at Port aux Poules, and lend money to the peasantry at five per cent on condition of their cultivating cotton. For their own cultivation they will employ steam-ploughs capable of ploughing twenty acres a day, and will lay down American tramways throughout their immense estate.

THE LATE FALL OF HOUSES AT HACKNEY.—The Metropolitan Board of Works having instituted an inquiry into the causes which led to the late fall of houses in Hackney, by which it will be remembered several lives were lost, Mr. Villiamy, the superintending architect, has presented to that board a report, in which he says:—"I consider the effect to have been produced by several causes—viz., inattentive supervision on the part of the builder's foreman and undue haste in executing works in such a critical situation. From the majority of the bricks used being of a very inferior description and quite unfit for the purpose to which they were applied, the mortar also being of a very inferior sand and imperfectly mixed, from the incomplete state of the roofs at the time of the accident, and the want of a proper tie between the front and back walls at the level of the several floors and in the roof,—the above-stated causes, combined with the vibration of the trains passing so constantly day and night, and acting upon hardly-executed works, the brickwork being no doubt affected by the sudden changes of the temperature, and the scaffolds and roof being overweighted with men and materials, all created a movement, and caused the front wall to bulge and fall."

MURDER AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—A shocking tragedy was perpetrated at Battersea-hill, near Hendon, on Saturday morning last. A young man named Lawrence was paying his addresses to a girl named Ann Bex, who lived in a cottage adjoining his own. It appears that there had been some quarrel between them, as some feelings of jealousy were entertained by Lawrence, for early on Saturday morning he shot at himself with a double-barrelled gun, frightfully lacerating his jawbone. Finding, however, that the shot did not prove fatal, he proceeded, all wounded and bleeding as he was, to the girl's cottage and shot her with the other barrel of the gun. The shot was more effectual in this instance, for the poor young woman almost immediately expired. Lawrence was himself conveyed to the Middlesex Hospital, and but faint hopes are entertained of his recovery.

POLITICAL FEELING IN VENICE.—A letter from Trieste of the 24th ult. contains some details of a demonstration which took place in Venice on the occasion of the anniversary of the 22nd of March, 1848. "On the previous evening the revolutionary committee of Venice had published the following proclamation—'Venetians!—The glorious titles of a people which demands its liberty remain ever graven in the heart of every honest citizen. Fourteen years ago, after driving out the Austrians, you proclaimed your independence, and, although again reduced to a yoke still more cruel than before, you have never forgotten the solemn day of the 22nd of March, while protesting against the rule of the stranger. Observe that day once more this year, and with increased confidence, for the destinies of Italy will soon be accomplished. Celebrate it as a national festival by abstaining from your occupations in order that the memory of past glories may be a stimulant to your sons to equal their fathers. Long live our King Victor Emmanuel!' On the evening of the 21st tricoloured Bengal fires were lit and fireworks let off. The same took place at nightfall on the 22nd, and the greater part of the ships were closed. These demonstrations, which were repeated at Verona, Mantua, and Udine, gave rise to numerous arrests."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Franco-Roman Ambassadorial question is said to be at length settled, on the principle of "as you were," M. de Lavalette returning to Rome and General de Goyon remaining there. According to some of the journals, General de Goyon's recall was really under consideration, but means have been found to reconcile the differences between the Ambassador and the Commander. The most important item of news from Paris, however, is the notification of a further reduction of the French army. The official journal of the 4th contained the following announcement on this subject:—"In order to lighten the burdens of the Treasury, and to enter from this moment into the views of economy which presided over the establishment of the Budget for 1863, the Emperor has ordered a reduction of 32,000 men to be made in the effective of the active army. The disbanding of the 101st and 102nd infantry regiments and the sale of 2200 horses have also been ordered." The effective of the French army is now for this year about 400,000 men, with two foreign expeditions on foot—namely, those of Mexico and China, besides the army of occupation at Rome.

It is reported in Paris that King Victor Emmanuel intends shortly to pay a visit to the Emperor. His Majesty's principal object is, if possible, to obtain a settlement of the Roman question, which is so essential to the peace and consolidation of his new kingdom. It is not unreasonably thought that the frank and simple language of the King will have more weight with the Emperor than the cold and tortuous phraseology of diplomacy, and great hopes are entertained of a successful result.

ITALY.

The visit of the King of Italy to Naples is to take place immediately after Easter. The young heir of Italy, Prince Humbert, is shortly about to visit London.

Signor Ratazzi has recently addressed another circular to the agents of Italy abroad. This document does not announce any change in either the acts or the tendencies of the Government. The Minister declares that the Government is quite strong enough to prevent any premature action from being taken in regard to Venetia, but, at the same time, proclaims that while so essential a part of Italy is held in foreign hands, the destiny of Italy remains unaccomplished, and the peace of Europe can never be assured. "The right of Austria over Venetia," Ratazzi declares, "is annihilated by the irrefutable fact that she can no longer maintain it except by force, and force may perhaps delay the crisis, but cannot prevent it."

General de Goyon appears to be acting up to the recent orders from Paris respecting the brigands. A telegram announces that the French troops have attacked and dispersed Chiavone's band near Prato Bompoli; and, according to news from Naples, the band of Crocco has been defeated near Lovello, and the chief himself slain.

It is reported that Austria intends to incorporate with her Army the best troops of the ex-Duke of Modena, sending the remainder to rest the Neapolitan provinces. Discontent prevailed upon this account among the Modenesi troops, a portion of whom were desirous of returning home.

AUSTRIA.

The statement that Lord Bloomfield had gone on a mission to Pesth at the instance of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and had had a conference with M. Deak, turns out to have been incorrect, as a contradiction has been given to it on the authority of a communication from M. Deak himself, in which he declares that he had no intercourse with Lord Bloomfield, either directly or through a third party, during his late stay in Pesth; that he had not even an accidental meeting with him; and that he had had no conversation with Count George Karolyi either about Lord Bloomfield or about any of the affairs referred to in the Vienna correspondence.

PRUSSIA.

The Government of Prussia is really making some effort to conciliate popular feeling. The fact has transpired in a somewhat singular manner. A Berlin journal (*Voss's Gazette*) of Saturday surprised its readers by publishing a "private and confidential" letter addressed by the Minister of Finance to the Minister of War recommending most urgently that the military budget should be reduced by two millions and a half of thalers, in order that the Government might be able, before the coming elections, to promise positively a reduction of taxation. This letter the journal in question announced that it had received from an anonymous correspondent. The document, it is alleged, was obtained in an illegal and surreptitious manner, but its genuineness is not denied. The Ministry of Finance have been holding a rigid examination, in order, if possible, to discover the culprit through whose agency the paraded Ministerial letter was presented to the public. The office of *Voss's Gazette*, in which the document was published, received a visitation from two of the police authorities, who searched there in vain for the manuscript, breaking open boxes and desks very unceremoniously in their quest. They also visited the chief editor at his private residence, and instituted similar inquiries there, but with like results.

Further concessions to the Liberal demands are also promised, to induce the electors to return members favourable to the Government. The whole Budget for 1862 is to be laid before the Chamber in greater detail than hitherto, and the items of the Budget of 1863 are also to be submitted to it. Moreover, there are to be no new taxes, economy in the public expenditure is to obviate the necessity of an increased income tax, and reductions are to be effected in the taxes on the necessities of life—corn, rice, cattle, and meat.

M. Grabow, chief of the Constitutional party, has just addressed a letter to the Liberal party recommending a good understanding and an absence of all excitement at the moment of voting.

RUSSIA.

It appears that the Russian censorship upon periodical publications is not to be abolished so promptly as had been supposed. A telegram from St. Petersburg states that a communication from the Minister of the Interior had notified that the Government intends to maintain the system for the present, but to replace it gradually by judicial proceedings.

The Russian Government, justly apprehensive of the stigma which would attach to it if the charge made against it of putting to the torture, at Warsaw, a printer—Zamoyski—remained uncontradicted, issued a commission of inquiry to investigate the matter. The commissioners then summoned Zamoyski before them, to whom he declared that since his arrest he had been kindly treated, and that not only had he been free from corporal punishment, but not a hand had been laid upon him.

THE HERZEGOVINA.

Cruscevizza and Dracevizza have surrendered to the Turkish troops. The insurgents have retired into Montenegrin territory. Luca Vucalovitch has taken refuge in the mountains. Dervisch Pacha has left a garrison in the intrenchments before Zubzi and marched upon Bilecia.

A telegram from Mostar reports that on the 3rd inst. the Montenegrins attacked the Turkish troops near Spuz, but were repulsed, and suffered considerable loss.

GREECE.

The Paris papers of Tuesday evening published a telegram from Athens of the 5th inst. stating that the insurgents at Nauplia demand a general amnesty and change of the Ministry. A decree for the amnesty has been published excepting nineteen of the chiefs of the insurrection. The same telegram asserts that the English and French squadrons before Nauplia are stationed there under pretext

of protecting their respective Consuls, but in reality for the purpose of advising the insurgents to submit, and of offering an asylum to those persons not included in the amnesty.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

Except a battle at Winchester, Virginia, some details of which will be found on another page, the news from America is not important. The Burnside expedition was carrying out its plan, and had occupied Beaufort, which the Confederates evacuated on their advance, previously blowing up Fort Macon and burning the Nashville, to hinder her falling into the hands of the Unionists. The latest news from Island No. 10 on the Mississippi states that the firing from the Federal gun-boats was continued, but that many of the enemy's batteries were mysteriously silent. There was a rumour that New Orleans had been attacked, but there appears to be no foundation for the report. On the whole, the news is unfavourable to the Southern cause; and, unless the Confederates are able to make good their stand at Fredericksburg, which they were said to be strongly fortifying, their position will become very critical.

There has been no further encounter between the iron ships at Newport News. It is believed that the Merrimac is in dock, and that her damages are almost completely repaired.

It is said that a new projectile, adapted to the 11-inch Dahlgren guns of the Monitor, has been made at the Cold Spring Foundry at West Point. One of them was driven through a solid plate of wrought iron eight inches thick, placed at an angle of 45 deg.

Certain newspapers having persisted in the publication of military details, in violation of the rules and articles of war and the orders of the War Department, thereby endangering the safety of the armies and the success of military operations, the *Journal of Boston*, the *Sunday Mercury*, and *Journal of Commerce* of New York, were suppressed by order of the Secretary of War, and their editors and proprietors arrested and ordered to Washington to be tried by a court martial for violating the 57th article of war.

In the Senate the joint resolution to afford aid to States emancipating slaves was taken up and debated for some hours. The bill for the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia was then taken up, the question being upon an amendment offered by Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, that the slaves should be colonised. The vote resulted in a "tie"—19 to 19—and the casting vote of the Vice-President decided it in the negative.

A despatch from Richmond, dated the 11th ult., is published in the *Memphis Appeal*, which states that Jefferson Davis is going West soon, and urges "everybody" to "rally to his standard."

In Nova Scotia the Ministry have been nearly defeated on the question of retrenchment. In lieu of the increased taxation proposed by the Government, the Opposition brought forward a motion for a reduction of public salaries, which was only lost by two votes. The Opposition evidently considered this a victory, and a Ministerial crisis appeared at hand.

GARIBALDI'S TOUR.—It seems that Garibaldi is not to extend his tour into Naples and Sicily, as he had originally intended. One account states that an attack of gout is the reason for thus curtailing the programme. The General had laid out for himself; but from other quarters comes the insinuation that Ministerial pressure, prompted from Paris, has been applied to induce him to circumscribe his motions. In the meantime, however, wherever he goes the popular enthusiasm becomes more and more marked, but always within the bounds of order and law. The popular hero was at the St. Giovanni Theatre at Parma on the 31st ult., where, of course, his presence was greeted with almost frantic acclamations. One shout was raised, among others, "Viva Mazzini in patria!" when the General rose, and said he would faithfully fulfil the mission he had been charged with at Genoa; some legal technicalities, which he could not understand or define, rose against the accomplishment of the people's wishes, but he hoped the King and his Ministers would find the means of smoothing the way for the exile's return. He then addressed the ladies assembled in the boxes, and said, "One request he had to urge—that they should not allow themselves to be bamboozled by the priests, who were the worst enemies of Italy and the allies of Austria and the brigands. They should cast aside the prejudices and superstitions spread by the priests among the people—chiefly among the women—to raise obstacles against the attainment of Italian independence and unity. The priests were for ages the main hindrance to the unification of their miserable country. Beware of them in 1494, ye women of Italy! beware of their evil devices!" On the following morning Garibaldi opened the rifle practice; he fired the first shot, and hit upon the very circle next to the bull's-eye—a shot next to a miracle, if we consider the age and the infirmity of the General, whose limbs are shattered by frequent attacks of the gout. No pen can describe the roar of applause with which his success was received. He welcomed a Venetian deputation, and said he was only waiting for an opportunity to offer the service of his arm for the redemption of Venetia. Venetia was at the top of all his thoughts; her subjection is to be laid to the charge not of the Italian Government, not of France, but of the Italians themselves, who are not yet sufficiently strong in arms. The Venetians should be kind masters to their peasantry that it might be seen that the cause of the nation was also the cause of humanity. For the rest, Italians yet needed greater proficiency in arms, especially in the use of the rifle; they needed concord, true brotherly feelings. "Let us all join hands and seek strength in real earnest union." Garibaldi has since visited Pavia and Cremona; and, it is said, has instituted no less than three hundred rifle clubs in the course of his tour.

GARIBALDI AND HIS ADMIRERS.—Garibaldi left Milan worn almost to death by the incessant and really importunate attentions of which he has been the object. He said that he had never been so thoroughly exhausted by a week's hard fighting as by the perpetually-succeeding emotions of the last few days. Some of his admirers have even gone the length of carrying off articles of clothing belonging to him, as well as cigars, walking-sticks, lucifer matches, &c., leaving others in their place. Even the horses that drew his carriage, and which were not his own, were fed with dainties, caressed, and even kissed by the people in the wild exuberance of their joy.

ITALIAN BRIGANDAGE.—It is reckoned that there are at Rome and in the remaining provinces of the shrunken Pontifical State no less than 5000 brigands in the pay of the ex-King of Naples and of his clerical allies, and all ready for immediate action. There are about 100 men of the most desperate character preparing to embark at Marseilles; other bands of the same strength are assembling at Malta, Trieste, and even at Cadiz; these are waiting to combine their onset with other troops which are to land from Illyria and Dalmatia. Not a few of the Irish runagates of Major O'Reilly's brigade have been re-enlisted. From all quarters of the world, in short, the storm gathers upon the devoted Neapolitan provinces. The reactionary leaders hope to take the field with no less than 6000 combatants before the end of this month. By this time they have given up all hope of availing themselves of native elements, and the whole of their host will consist of foreign fanatics, adventurers, and malefactors. Already for some time none but foreigners have fallen into the hands of the Italian troops; and no greater demand is made upon the late subjects of the Bourbon than for what may be got from them, by love or force, in the way of provisions, shelter, and local intelligence. Francis II. and the Roman Government have thrown off all disguise in regard to the movement. A week back Francis and his Queen reviewed the brigands in the Campo dei Fiori, encouraged them, and showered upon them smiles and gracious words. The ex Queen wore a white and red plume in her hat, and was dressed almost not as a Colonel of Lancers. The brigands received the deposed pair with cries of applause. The French and Roman police and the patrols of General Goyon were present. After the review the brigands set out in small gangs, each its own way.

BOUANON INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE.—The *Campana della Gancia* of Palermo mentions a discovery which has just been made in the castle of that capital. On digging up the floor of a storehouse of the artillery three horrible instruments of torture, used under the Bourbons, were brought to light. One was the cap of silence, consisting of two copper hoops, one of which used to be screwed tight round the head, and the other round the face; the other instruments were the burning-chair and the footburner. The former is also of copper, on which the victim was strapped down, while plates of red-hot iron were let into a cavity in the back. The other is a kind of metal boot resting on an iron box, in which a fire was kept up while the prisoner had his foot in it. It was rumoured that these instruments were to be sent to London to be shown to the British Parliament.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—At last the repairs to the big ship have been completed, and on Tuesday, the 6th of May, she will take her departure from Milford Haven for New York, returning thence to Liverpool about the middle of June. The Great Eastern, while she has been laid up at Milford, has had a complete overhaul, and nothing has been spared to make her as efficient as possible and to prevent any repetition of such an accident as happened to her last September.

IRON SHIPS AND ORDNANCE.

The Government, in consequence of the results of the late combat between the Monitor and Merrimac in the James River, have ordered the Royal Sovereign, 131 guns, line-of-battle ship, to be prepared for sailing at Portsmouth; and it is said that the Duke of Wellington, the Victoria, the Bulwark, and other large ships will shortly be treated in the same manner. In the meantime the construction of wooden ships has been suspended at the several Royal dockyards. Captain Coles, in a letter to the *Times*, undertakes to convert our wooden war-ships into iron-cased vessels, furnished with his cupola-shields, at a comparatively small cost; he also undertakes to build two of his shot-proof rafts "with 300-pounders and revolving shields (giving them a little more length, depth, and speed than the *Warrior*) for £60,000 each; and they would inevitably dispute the entrance to Southend against the *Warrior* or vessels of that class, or would most certainly either destroy or drive her away." Improvements in artillery are being warmly discussed, as well as the merits of rifled and smooth-bore guns, those of steam-rams versus iron ships, together with the shape, material, and construction of projectiles. The disputants include Mr. Whitworth, Sir William Armstrong, Mr. James Nasmyth, and other eminent individuals. Mr. Whitworth, speaking of the composition and form of projectiles says:—"It is of no use attempting to penetrate wrought-iron plates with cast-iron balls. No one would use a cast-iron punch to perforate a wrought-iron plate, nor would the head of the punch be made spherical. Wrought iron should not be attacked with a metal inferior or only equal to itself, but with a metal superior in strength and hardness, formed into a shape suited for penetration, and propelled with the requisite velocity. To have recourse to huge round shot to smash in the ship's side is like employing brute force and neglecting the aids which science and mechanical experience have placed at our disposal." Mr. Whitworth thinks it possible to construct artillery capable of piercing the sides of the strongest iron-clad ship that can be constructed, and this opinion receives some countenance from the result of experiments tried at Shoeburyness on Tuesday, where an Armstrong smooth-bore gun, throwing shot of 156lb. weight, was tried upon the famous *Warrior* shield, and is reported to have sent the ball "with an indescribable crash, that mingled fearfully with the report of the gun, the shot struck upon a comparatively uninjured plate, shattering the iron mass before it into little crumbs of metal, splintering the test into fibres literally as small as pins, and, though not passing quite through the side, yet bulging and rending the inner skin of the ship in a way that would have rendered it almost impossible to stop the leakage." This was the result of the first shot. The second shot (still with a 40lb. charge) struck close by the first, making the previous damage tenfold worse, if possible. To those who did not actually see the experiments it would be difficult to describe the manner in which the iron opposite the missile was broken into minute fragments like glass; how the teak was so utterly disintegrated that it more resembled tangles of fine twine than even the remains of woodwork; and how, above all, the inner iron skin was ripped into gaps like torn paper. These two shots were quite conclusive as to the power of the gun. Had they struck an iron frigate at the water-line no means could have prevented her from sinking in half an hour. Still, however, the shot had not gone completely through the side, which it was the great object of the experiments to accomplish. The charge of powder was, therefore, increased from 40lb. to 59lb. and the gun levelled at the uppermost plate of the target, which had been left untouched in previous tests. On this plate a white spot was painted to guide the artillerists, and so true was their aim—so exactly was the centre of the mark struck—that every vestige of the paint was obliterated. With this increased charge the shot passed not only through armour-plate, teak, and inner skin, but buried itself in the massive timbers that support the target, and even loosened the blocks of granite by which the whole is backed up. Had it been the side of the *Warrior* against which this missile was directed it would not only have gone through the side, but nearly through the opposite side as well. Another white mark was then made on the lowest plate of the target, and again the artillerists hit it with the same marvellous precision and with the same result. The shot went through everything, and even the fondest believers in the invulnerability of our present iron-sides were obliged to confess that against such artillery, at such ranges, their plates and sides were almost as penetrable as wooden ships are now to the plain old-fashioned long 32's.

MR. PEABODY'S GIFT TO THE METROPOLITAN POOR.—On Wednesday a respectfully-attended ward-mote of inhabitants residing in the ward of Finsbury was held, for the purpose of taking into consideration what steps should be adopted with reference to the munificent gift of George Peabody, Esq. After a vote of thanks to Mr. Peabody, Mr. Goddard proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting, representing as it does one of the poorest districts of London, desires to express its opinion that the improvement of the dwellings of the labouring classes is the great necessity of the day, and likely to promote the happiness and well-being of the metropolis." The motion was seconded, and carried *nem. con.*, and a committee was appointed to confer with the gentlemen appointed to administer the funds.

THE EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON AMERICAN COMMERCE.—A New York paper, in speaking of the influence the war has exercised upon commerce, says:—"The commerce of this country has scarcely suffered appreciably during the past year, notwithstanding the unparalleled difficulties by which we were on every side threatened and beset. It is true that our imports, especially in articles of luxury, have declined, but still the total aggregate of our imports amount to more than 334,000,000 dols., against 302,000,000 dols. for 1860, and 338,000,000 dols. for 1859. On the other hand, our exports have reached the very satisfactory amount of 388,000,000 dols., while in 1859 they were only 357,000,000 dols., and in 1860 400,000,000 dols. A more complete refutation it is impossible to conceive of the statement recently made in various quarters that 'the secession contest had robbed us of half our foreign commerce.'"

SIRKIN IN THE IRON SHIPBUILDING TRADE.—A few weeks since Messrs. Wigram, ship-builders, Blackwall, undertook to contract for building an iron vessel for the coasting service of the Trinity House. Having several of their wooden shipbuilding hands or shipwrights unemployed, they placed those men on the work of the new iron ship. The iron ship-building workmen in the yard protested against this employment of the shipwrights as an infringement on the privilege of their trade, and laid the case before their executive council at Manchester. Messrs. Wigram having declined to withdraw the shipwrights from the vessel, the whole of the iron-shipbuilders in their employ struck, refusing to work any longer in the yard where such an innovation in their trade was practised and encouraged. This course has been sanctioned by their executive council, and the men placed on strike pay, the non-society men sharing equally with the society men. The iron-shipbuilding trade being very brisk, the majority of the men have obtained employment in other yards, but there are about thirty men at present in the receipt of strike pay.

THE LOSS OF THE MARS.—We regret to state that the reports of the loss of life occasioned by the wreck of the Irish steam-ship *Mars* have not been exaggerated. Only six persons have been saved. The night of the catastrophe was extremely stormy, and in the neighbourhood of the Crow Rocks, upon which she struck, she would be completely exposed to the fury of the tempest. At Pill, where several of the officers and crew resided, intense excitement prevailed when the news of the loss of the vessel arrived, and that has now given place to the deepest grief. As fifty persons went down on the fatal night, there will be many mourners in other parts of the country.

THE METROPOLITAN UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.—The Metropolitan Underground Railway has at length been so far completed that it may be said there is a continuous communication between Victoria-street, Farringdon-street, and the Great Western Railway at Paddington, embracing a junction between the London and North-Western and the Great Northern on its way. A party of gentlemen interested in the line went through this portion on Saturday last, now walking, now drawn by horse-power, and now by the locomotive. It is expected that the line will be ready for working in the month of June, when there will be one continuous communication formed between the lines on the north side of London and the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, so that a traveller may proceed from the extreme north to the extreme south of the City without changing his carriage.

THE HUNGARIAN EXILES.—The following letter, dated Turin, March 27, has been addressed to the journals by General Klapka:—"An incident which may give rise to malevolent interpretations obliges me to explain myself clearly as to the position of the Hungarian emigrants. A French gentleman (Prince Crouy, of Hungary) offers his co-operation in the emancipation of the country of his ancestors. As our cause is that of liberty, which is common to all nations, we shall always give a fraternal welcome to any friend who may wish to unite in our efforts. As, however, the traditions of the family of Crouy have already furnished an opportunity to presumptuous friends or to malicious enemies to set up this chivalrous old gentleman as a pretender, and to thus give a colour of adventure to the patriotic work of Hungarian emancipation, it is my duty to loudly declare that we, Hungarians in a foreign land, unanimously protest against any private interest, and against all pretenders, whoever they may be, that would wish to make the battle-field of liberty an arena of personal ambition. We only recognise the will of the nation. All our ideas, like all our efforts, have only one object—to restore the nation to herself and to enable her to freely dispose of her destinies. Let the Prince of Crouy call together his friends in France in order to acquire fresh sympathies in Hungary; let him come at the decisive moment and place himself under our flag, and we shall know how to appreciate his generous sentiments. But, in the event of his presence exciting any embarrassment for the accomplishment of our mission, we should make an appeal to his good faith, and we are persuaded that it would be attended to."

IRELAND.

THE COURT-MARTIAL ON CAPTAIN ROBERTSON.—A Dublin contemporary states that it believes itself "safe in announcing that the court-martial in the case of Captain Robertson has resulted in his acquittal. The judgment on the regiment is, we believe, still under consideration." Whether this statement be correct or not in substance, it is most probably a mere guess, or at least it is premature; as the authorities at the Horse Guards, considering the process by which business is transacted in that valuable public department, can scarcely have yet had time to digest the very voluminous evidence adduced at the late trial, much less to come to a decision as to the merits of the questions involved. Those who take an interest in the matter will probably have to wait some time ere the publication of the decision of the Commander-in-Chief shall gratify their curiosity. In regard to this now celebrated trial, a military contemporary remarks:—"It is whispered in circles likely to be well informed that the prosecutor (Colonel Brownrigg) in the late court-martial is determined, if possible, to bring ulterior proceedings against certain officers who gave evidence for the defence. One officer, who is said to be the special object of anger, is charged with the 'ungentlemanlike conduct' of keeping a diary. Threatening rumours such as these are not likely to encourage witnesses on future courts-martial to speak out 'the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.' This, too, is probably an unwarranted piece of gossip; for surely it is impossible that in these days any officer in Colonel Brownrigg's position can be so absurd as to think for one moment of construing the 'keeping of a diary' into a military offence."

MAJOR O'REILLY.—This gallant gentleman, it seems, has been blamed for taking his seat in the House on the Ministerial side "below the gangway," and thus explains his motives for doing so in a letter to the Bishop of Ardagh:—"I am very much obliged to you for letting me know that some of my good friends have misunderstood the meaning of my taking my seat on the side of the House I have done. A few words will explain the matter. In the old House of Commons there were benches down both sides and across the end; on the side benches on the one side sat the Liberal supporters of Government; on the cross benches on the Conservative side sat the independent Conservatives; on the cross benches on the Liberal side sat the independent Liberals. The latter would have been my place were the cross benches still in existence. But there are now only the side benches divided into two parts by the gangway. On these, on the Conservative side, sit above the gangway the regular party supporters of Lord Derby; below the gangway the independent Conservatives, to the support of many of whom Lord Palmerston has so often been indebted for safety. On the Liberal side sit, above the gangway, the regular supporters of the present Government; below the gangway the independent Liberals, including, of course, many supporters of Government, but including also many, like myself, its determined opponents. It appeared to me that for one like myself, an advocate for reform, the ballot, and the abolition of church rates, &c., to sit on the Conservative side of the House would be a solecism; and I know that I sit with several determined, like myself, to vote on all occasions against the present Government. That the Government look upon me as a decided opponent is clear from the fact that while Colonel White has declared he does not prosecute the petition against my return, it is conducted by the Government Parliamentary agent, and backed by all their influence, direct and indirect. In conclusion, I have only to say my friends may differ in opinion as to where I might best sit in the House. I am certain they will all be satisfied with my position in the division-lobby."

THE PROVINCES.

DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE.—The "distress list" in Lancashire continues to exhibit a large preponderance of want over the similar period of last year. The total number relieved in the Ashton Union during the past week is 4714, or 3179 more than in the corresponding period of 1861. The number in the workhouse now is 454, against 325 last year. In Rochdale Union 2313 persons were relieved this week, against 934 last year. The comparative cost of the first and last period shows that £100 more was spent last week in relief than in the same period of the preceding year. In Preston, too, matters are in a very gloomy state, several additional factories having been closed or placed upon still further reduced time.

THE HARTLEY WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.—At a general meeting of the Hartley Relief Committee, held at Newcastle-on-Tyne last week, it was reported that the amount now received was over £75,000, and that the committee had taken steps to invest £60,000 in proper securities. The committee proceeded to fix the scale of allowance, and the following was adopted:—To each widow, 7s. a week; widow and one child, 10s. 6d.; widow and two children, 13s. 6d.; widow and three children, 15s. 6d.; widow and four children, 17s. 6d.; widow and five children, 19s. 6d.; widow and six children, 21s. 6d. a week, the allowance to continue, except in cases of gross misconduct, to widows so long as they remain unmarried; to girls until they reach the age of fifteen years; to boys until they reach the age of twelve years; the allowance for infirm adults to remain, as a general rule, at 5s. per week; special cases to be considered. The committee will educate the children, and furnish medical attendance to the families in addition. A motion was made to subscribe £2000 from the general fund towards the accident in Wales, but after some discussion it was withdrawn, the opinion of the meeting being adverse to the proposal. The sinkers' fund now amounts to £1500. Medals for the men will be ready in the course of a month, and in addition it is expected that the principal workmen will receive £10 or £12 each.

DESPERATE ATTEMPT OF A CONVICT TO ESCAPE FROM A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.—A convict was being conveyed by the Great Northern Railway, a few days ago, when, on entering a tunnel, near Grantham, he sprang to the window of the carriage in which he sat, guarded by an officer, and, although handcuffed, contrived to dash himself through it. His skull was dreadfully fractured in two or three places, and his left arm completely ground by the wheels of the train passing over it. The arm has been amputated close to the shoulder, and the poor fellow expresses a desire to see his friends, as he feels assured his end is fast approaching.

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE.—On Sunday last a young girl, aged fifteen, daughter of a mechanic in the New Town, Ashford, vomited a live frog. The frog has been shown to a great many persons in the town, and, we believe, has been taken by F. Shepherd, Esq., surgeon, who attended the girl at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. It is of considerable size, being as large as the palm of the girl's hand, and is very lively. She was nearly choked by it. The water supplied to the houses in the New Town is very impure, and in summer is full of insects. The girl has a recollection of swallowing something when drinking a glass of water last summer, but no attention was paid to the circumstance. She has been lately subject to disorders and pains in the intestines, for which she has been obliged to have recourse to medical advice.

ALBERT MEMORIAL AT OXFORD.—The citizens of Oxford intend to have a memorial of Prince Albert of their own, and Mr. Woolnoth has been commissioned to execute it for the sum of £300. The statue will be presented to the University in acknowledgement of their liberality in throwing open to the public the new Museum, Bodleian and Radcliffe Libraries, and other University buildings, and with that view the statue will be placed in the University new Museum. The subscriptions in the University and county are sent to the Lord Mayor of London in aid of the national memorial. It is proposed, however, to raise by subscription, by the united efforts of the citizens and members of the University, a sufficient sum to erect in St. Giles's-street, opposite to the Martyrs' Memorial, a testimonial fountain—a prominent feature in the design being a statue of the late Prince. The design has been furnished by Mr. George Gilbert Scott, the well-known Gothic architect, and when carried out will add greatly to the beauty of this part of Oxford, besides being of considerable utility in a sanitary point of view.

THE ALBERT MEMORIAL.—The sub-committee of the fund for raising a memorial to the late Prince Consort met on Wednesday at the Mansion House—the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor in the chair. Mr. Goodman (hon. secretary) reported that the amount received up to that time was £41,239, of which £390 had been received during the week. A discussion arose upon the propriety of adopting the proposition of Mr. Godlin, one of the members of the committee, for issuing contribution cards. The committee seemed to be of opinion that it was a means of raising money that should not be resorted to; and the Lord Mayor said that he had done all he could to prevent the committee from pressing upon the poor, and he was also of opinion that it had better not be tried. It was finally resolved that the idea should be abandoned.

THE PYTHON.—All hopes of the hatching are now at an end; the eggs have been removed without any indication of incubation taking place. There is no doubt that the frequent removals of the blanket in uncovering the eggs and the occasional partial uncoiling of the snake caused too numerous sudden changes of temperature for the proper development of the young, which originally, we know from Mr. Bartlett's dissection, were in them. The effects of these disturbances attained a climax in the lengthened period of the snake's absence in shedding her skin, during which the eggs became completely cold. They were removed, under the direction of the superintendent of the zoological collection, by her keeper, who has attended her during the whole of her location in the gardens, for more than seven years. The necessity for their removal was not only apparent from the bad state they were in but from the impoverished condition of the python, diminished in bulk by probably at least one-third of her former dimensions; and her long absence from food (now thirty-two weeks) naturally led to anxiety as to her ultimate safety if she were allowed to hopelessly continue her sitting. The snake behaved rather spitefully during the operation.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

PRESTON.—The election for this borough has resulted in the return of the Conservative candidate, the numbers at the close of the poll being—Hesketh (Conservative), 1527; Melly (Liberal), 1011; majority, 513.

LAMBETH.—A vacancy has occurred in the representation of this borough, Mr. Roupell having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS AND TOURNAMENT.—The International Chess Congress and Tournament for the year 1862 is announced to take place towards the end of June, under the presidency of Lord Lyttelton and a committee composed of the most distinguished chess amateurs of the day.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

THE CITY OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

The city of Nashville, of which we give an Engraving, is the capital of the State of Tennessee, and seat of justice of Davidson County. It is a port of entry, and is situated on the Cumberland River, two hundred miles above its junction with the Ohio. The population of Nashville before the rebellion was about 24,000, but has since much decreased. The city is chiefly built on the south side of the river, on the slopes and at the foot of a hill rising about 230ft. above the water. The Cumberland is navigable for steam-boats for fifty miles above the city, and by smaller boats to the Falls, five hundred miles from its mouth. There are five railroads radiating from Nashville—viz., the Tennessee and Alabama, Louisville and Nashville, Memphis and Ohio, Hickman and Nashville Branch, Nashville and Chattanooga, and Nashville and North-Western. The city is generally well built, and there are numerous imposing public and private buildings. One of the finest of the former is the new Capitol, situated on an eminence 175ft. above the river, and constructed, inside and out, of a beautiful variety of fossiliferous limestone. It is three stories high, including the basement. At each end of the building there is an Ionic portico of eight columns, each 4ft. 6in. in diameter, and over 33ft. high, and at the sides there are also porticos of six columns each. A tower or cupola rises above the centre of the roof to the height of 200ft. from the ground. It has a quadrangular rusticated base, 42ft. high, surmounted by a circular cell, 37ft. high and 26ft. in diameter, with eight fluted Corinthian columns, designed from the choragic monument of Lysicrates at Athens. The dimensions of the whole building are 138ft. by 238ft., and the construction cost over one million dollars. It is approached by four avenues, which rise from terrace to terrace by broad marble steps. The edifice is considered the handsomest State Capitol in the Union.

The new Court House is a large building, on the public square, with an eight-columned Corinthian portico at each end, and a four-columned portico at each side. The State Bank is a handsome Doric building. Among the other permanent edifices are the gaol, the penitentiary, theatre, Odd Fellows' and Masonic Halls, City Hospital, University, and schoolhouses.

There are two fine bridges over the Cumberland River—one a railroad bridge, of wood, with an immense draw 280ft., and two stationary spans each 200ft. This bridge was finished in 1859, at a cost of 240,000 dols. The other is a wire suspension-bridge, of more than 700ft. span, and 110ft. above the water. It was begun in 1850, and cost about 100,000 dols. The city waterworks were constructed in 1833, and the total expense up to 1861 has been more than 500,000 dols. The water is raised from the river to four reservoirs, which have an aggregate capacity of 1,600,000 gallons. Gas was introduced into the city in February, 1850.

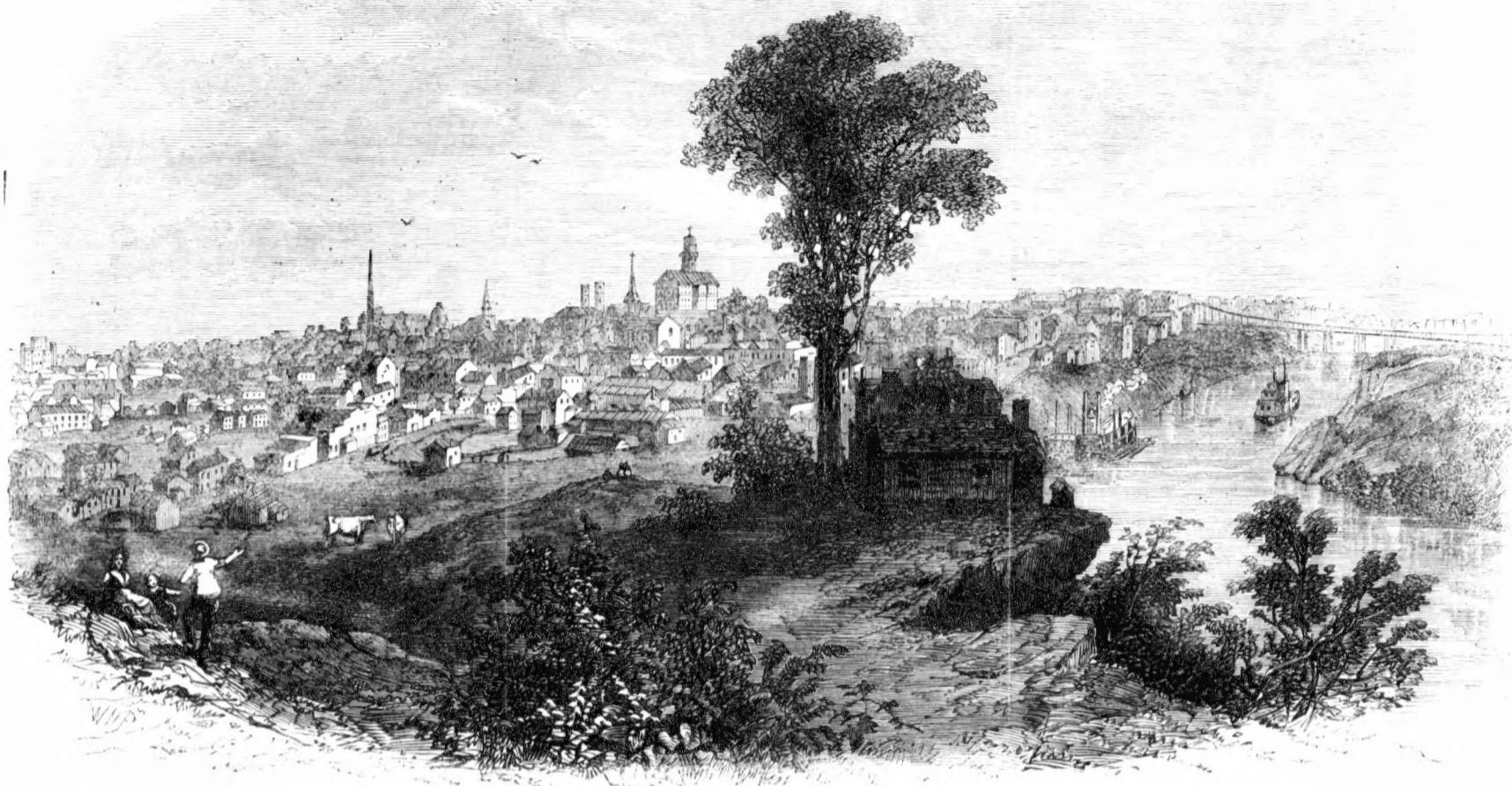
The commerce of Nashville was very large, being carried on by river and railroads, and by turnpike roads, to the construction of which the city has devoted a great deal of attention. The revenue of the port amounted to about 40,000 dols per annum; but the Government has not yet erected a custom-house in the city. The average annual shipments are—30,000 bales of cotton, 6000 hogsheads of tobacco, 2,000,000 bushels of wheat, 6,000,000 bushels of Indian corn, 10,000 casks of bacon, 25,000 hogs, and 2500 tierces of lard.

The neighbourhood of Nashville is a famous stock-raising country, and has a high reputation for blood horses, jockeys, mules, cattle, sheep, hogs, and Cashmere goats. The leading business of the city is in dry goods, hardware, drugs, and groceries. Book-publishing is carried on more extensively than in any other western town. The manufactures are less important than the commercial interests. There are three flour-mills, eight or ten planing-mills, and eight or ten machine-shops. The value of the taxable property here is 15,000,000 dols. Seven miles from the city is the State Lunatic Asylum, and twelve miles east is the Hermitage, the celebrated residence of Andrew Jackson. The municipal government is vested in a mayor, eight aldermen, and sixteen councilmen. The first permanent settlement was made in 1778-80; the town was incorporated in 1812. Nashville is 280 miles north east of Memphis, 206 miles south-west of Lexington, in Kentucky, and 684 miles from Washington city. Nashville is now in the hands of the Federals.

THE BATTLE OF WINCHESTER.

A rather sharp conflict took place on the 22nd and 23rd of March at Winchester, Virginia, near the Potomac, between the division of General Banks and the Confederates under General Jackson, in which the latter are reported to have been completely routed, though much superior in numbers. A (Federal) letter from Winchester, dated March 25, gives the following account of the affair:—

"On Saturday, at two o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy showed themselves a mile and half from Winchester. The enemy consisted of 500 of Ashby's Cavalry and two guns. They drove in our pickets, and then skirmished with the Michigan Cavalry and a portion of the Maryland First. General Shields brought up his forces and fired rounds of shell, drove them back, and took several prisoners. General Shields was wounded in the arm by the first fire of the enemy. Jackson had been informed by the inhabitants that the town was deserted by the Union troops, and he advanced to retake it. General Shields's force slept on their arms on Saturday night. On Sunday morning at sunrise Jackson, being reinforced, attacked General Shields near Kearnytown, three miles distant. The enemy's force consisted of 500 Ashby's Cavalry, 5000 infantry, nine pieces of artillery, with a reserve of eighteen pieces of artillery. The fight was kept up till noon, when a charge made by the Ohio Infantry, 1st Michigan, and 1st Virginia Cavalry on their right, drove them back half a mile, when the enemy got their guns in position again in a dense wood, flanked by infantry, and drove us back. A short artillery engagement ensued, when General Shields, through Colonel Kimball, ordered Colonel Tyler to turn their left flank, which was executed by our troops, but with terrible loss, the enemy being protected by a stone ledge. The 8th Pennsylvania and 13th Indiana charged their centre, and the fight became general, with a terrible massacre on both sides. Colonel Murray, of the 84th Pennsylvania, was killed. The enemy retired slowly, bringing their guns to bear at every opportunity. Our men rushed forward with yells, when a panic among the enemy ensued. Our troops followed and drove them till dark, capturing three guns, three caissons, muskets, equipments, &c., innumerable. Our troops bivouacked on the field. General Williams's first brigade, Colonel Donnelly, of the 28th New York, commanding, reinforced General Shields's forces. General Banks, who was on the way to Washington on Sunday, returned and assumed command. Meantime, General Shields's division, commanded by Colonel Kimball, pursued the enemy beyond Newton, shelling them the whole way. Jackson's men were perfectly demoralised and beyond control. They threw overboard the dead and wounded to lighten the wagons. It is noticeable that nearly all the Confederates wounded were shot in the head and breast, testing the superiority of our marksmen. It was evidently known to many in the town that Jackson was approaching from the holiday attire and buoyancy of spirits among men and women here. General Shields's command being screened from observation on the



VIEW OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

east side of the town led the informants to believe that all our troops were evacuating and that Jackson would enter unobstructed. Good judges say the enemy's loss is over 200 killed, 500 wounded, and 300 prisoners, including an Aid to Jackson. Our loss in killed is 65, in wounded about 125."

Further accounts state that this victory had been vigorously followed up by General Banks, who drove the Confederates into and beyond the town of Strasburg in a terrific rout. The General, on the 25th, sent the following despatch from "five miles beyond Strasburg":—"The enemy are still in retreat, and our forces in hot pursuit. The loss of the rebels must have been enormous. They have abandoned waggons along the road filled with dead and dying; the houses on the route are found crowded with the wounded and dead; the dwellings in the town adjacent to the battle-fields of Sunday are also found filled with the wounded. The inhabitants

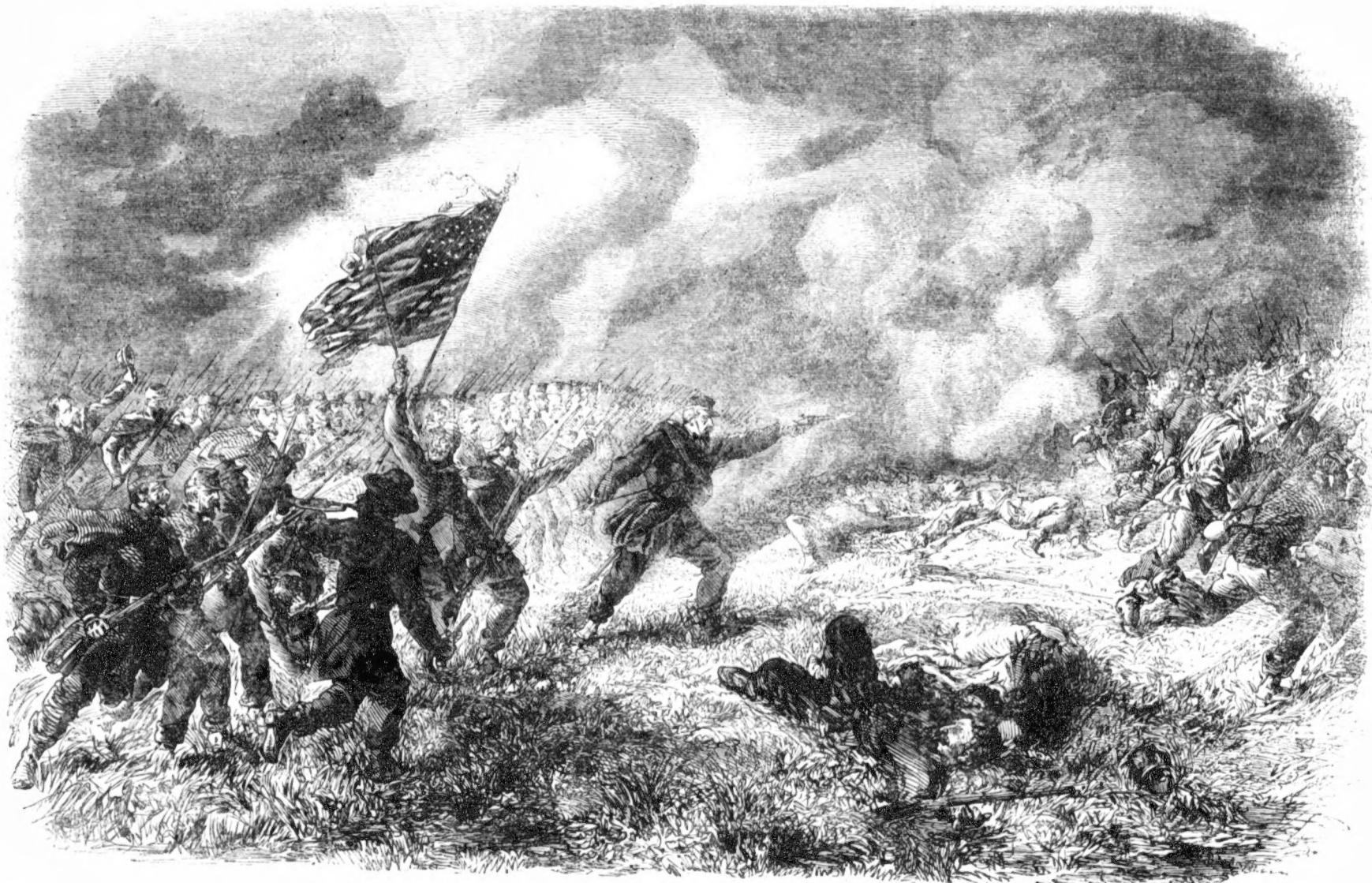
aided the rebel soldiers in carrying off their wounded during the day, and in burying them as soon as dead. Our artillery makes terrific havoc among the enemy in their flight, and the route bids fair to be one of the most dreadful of the war."

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA AT VERONA.

In the recent visit of Francis Joseph to the Austrian possessions in Italy it is scarcely surprising that his principal attention should have been directed to the fortified cities which form the renowned Quadrilateral, to inspect these strong fortifications being indeed the object of the Imperial visit.

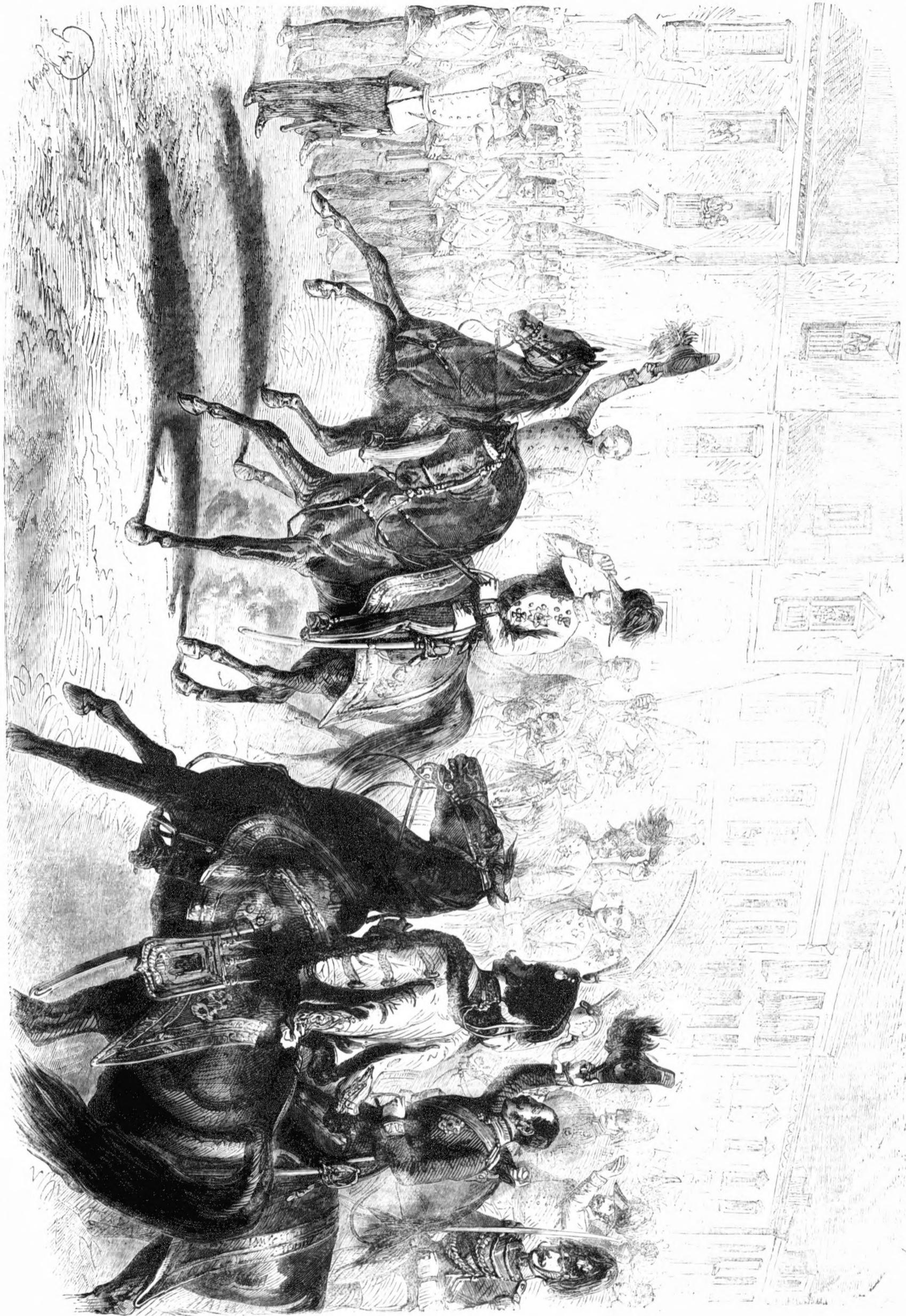
The Emperor arrived at Verona by means of the railway from Costa Nuova, and was received by General Benedek, accompanied by the entire Staff. All the officers were presented to his Majesty

by the Commander-in-Chief, and it was arranged that a review of the troops should take place the same day. Seven brigades took part in this military display, so that twenty thousand men had an opportunity of listening to the appeal which was addressed to the army requiring their devotion to the Imperial will. Not only were they addressed by the Monarch, but General Benedek, following in the wake of his Royal master, treated them to an harangue of which "God and the Emperor" was the principal text—a sentiment which, notwithstanding its want of logical connection, was received by the soldiers with enthusiastic manifestations and a promise to shed their blood in the Imperial service. The General was highly complimented by his Majesty upon the effective condition of the troops and for the spirit with which they appeared to be animated; and the entire ceremony seems to have given unmixed satisfaction to everybody concerned.



PURSUIT OF THE ROUTED CONFEDERATES AFTER THE BATTLE AT WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA REVIEWING THE TROOPS IN VERONA.



INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 181.

THE BRUMMAGEM LUTHER.

Was there ever anything more ludicrous than the scene which we had on Friday night, of which Mr. Whalley was the hero? Mr. Whalley aspires to be the Luther of this modern bustling time. Luther gave the Pope a blow under which it has staggered ever since. Mr. Whalley hopes to achieve immortal fame by killing it outright; and on every occasion, in season and out of season, he is ever fulfilling this mission, dragging the poor old Pope upon the stage and pummeling him without mercy. That which specially excited the ire of our modern Luther on the night in question was a certain picture in the House of Lords, subject "Saint Augustine Baptizing Ethelbert," or, as some call it, "The Introduction of Christianity into England." This picture Mr. Whalley had seen, and, as the wrath of Luther was excited when Tetzel, with his Popish wares, indulgences and charms, appeared in the market-place of Wittemburg—and as the anger of Knox, when chained to the bar, was roused when the tailors gave him an image of the Virgin—so was Mr. Whalley agitated by this false picture, and then and there he determined, as soon as occasion offered, to lift up his testimony against it; and this, with great solemnity of manner, he did on Friday night. "The Pope, by his emissary, introduce Christianity into England! Why, we had it here five hundred years before," indignantly exclaimed our modern Luther; and then we had a scene which, as the penny-a-liners say, "beggars description." First a burst of laughter and cheers broke forth; and then, when the hon. gentleman seemed staggered and bewildered by this reception of his "mission," ironical cries of "Go on! go on!" saluted his ear, and at every sentence, as he proceeded, loud cheers—not, however, unmixed with laughter—broke forth, until, at last, poor Mr. Whalley got puzzled, and sat down. Now, what is it that excites the risibility of the House whenever Mr. Whalley rises? It certainly is not the subject, for Spooner and Newdegate have often discoursed upon the same topics, and, though the House has frequently been impatient under the infliction, it has never laughed. No; it is not the subject, but the man. It has come to be thought that Mr. Whalley is not sincere; that his solemnity and earnestness are only simulated for a purpose, and not real; that, in short, a bustling man of business (chairman of some dozen railway companies) cannot be a real Luther, but only a counterfeit—"a Brummagem Luther," as some one aptly designated him. The House may probably be mistaken; upon this we offer no opinion; but that this is the feeling which prevails there cannot be a doubt.

BOX AND COX.

Or take another example, on another night. Little Mr. Cox then came on to the scene, not, however, to discourse upon history, like Mr. Whalley. Mr. Cox once alluded to a notable historical scene, as we know, but he made such a dreadful blunder that he will probably be careful how he attempts an allusion of the kind again. What excited Mr. Cox's wrath was a certain vote of £500 to keep up the gravel walks of Kennington Park. "Kennington Park was inclosed," he said. "Nothing but sheep were admitted on to the grass. Her Majesty's subjects were excluded." And with indignant patriotism he protested against this wanton waste of money upon Kennington Park. And here we cannot help noting how aptly the old proverb, "Little things to little men," applies to all this. Some forty millions of money have been voted this year, in sums ranging from one to a dozen millions in a vote, and yet Mr. Cox never gainsaid one of these votes. But this paltry £500, an amount which Mr. Cox has often made in a day, roused his wrath to such a pitch that he not only criticised it in two or three speeches—in which he was so declamatory, and eloquent, and fervid, that a stranger would have thought that the fate of the nation must be at stake—but he pushed his opposition to a division. The House, always alive to the ludicrous and ever ready for fun about midnight, enjoyed this funny episode amazingly, and cheered little Mr. Cox uproariously as, with violent gestures and in screaming tones, he hurled his eloquence and fierce philippics against this poor unfortunate vote. But the fun got to its height. After the division, when tiny Mr. Cox and that man-mountain, Mr. Hunt, of Northamptonshire, walked up to the table, side by side, as tellers, to give in the numbers, some wag at the bar, when he saw this giant with his dwarf march up the floor of the House, shouted, "Box and Cox!" and then there came such a roar of laughter that it was not without difficulty that Mr. Massey could get silence whilst the clerk read out the numbers in the division.

GLADSTONE'S BUDGET.

It was about a quarter to five when Mr. Gladstone rose to open his Budget, to unroll his scroll, and expose to England and the world the estimate of our expenditure for the coming year, and the ways and means by which the money was to be obtained. It is a great occasion, this Budget night. Some 600 men, including strangers, sat there, every eye fixed upon the orator. The ladies in the gallery, silent as death (a not very usual occurrence), looked curiously down from their lofts. The reporters below them had every man his attention on the stretch. Those who work the telegraph in the central hall were all at their posts to receive the slips as they arrived and to dispatch their contents to the ends of the earth. And the strangers in the lobby, who could not get into the gallery, were all on the *qui vive* to obtain information of what was to be revealed—whether under such circumstances it might be expected that our Chancellor of the Exchequer would feel nervous and flattered, and bow down with the responsibilities of his position. But nothing of the sort was observable. Calmly he rose. Calmly he proceeded to his task, and for three hours by the clock did he, in a pure stream of eloquence, which he only of all men living can command, unfold to us the past history of our finance, the present state of our revenue, and the prospects which seemed to be opening before us in the future. There is something on these occasions very attractive in the eloquence of Mr. Gladstone, it is so pure, transparent, and flowing. His style is of the sort which has been so often admired. It is as translucent as glass; you seem to see, not the medium, but only the thoughts which it reveals. We may here, however, say that this was not by any means so great a speech as those orations which he delivered in 1860-1. The cause of this was probably that this year the orator had not the same materials to deal with as he had in former years. He had no surplus to handle—no vast changes to make—no French Treaty to discourse upon and defend; and, moreover, at times we thought he seemed to be depressed in the presence of the vast expenditure for which he had to provide and the consciousness that he had now exhausted wellnigh all those ingenious methods of relieving trade from customs and excise whereby without imposing fresh taxation he recovered his loss from the natural elasticity and expansion of commerce. Gladstone is never so eloquent as when he has great difficulties to overcome, complications to unravel, scientific problems of finance and economy to solve, and prejudices, and ignorance, and fallacies to battle with and conquer. Then it is, and only then, that we see all the power of the man. His task this year was commonplace, and, consequently, his oration was not and could not be so great an effort as those of past years. Still, it was a great speech; such a one as none but he could deliver.

MR. DISRAELI'S ONSLAUGHT THEREON.

There was no fighting upon the Budget on the night of its delivery—several hours of vapid talk to almost empty benches, nothing more. The real discussion on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech that evening took place in the dining-room, the smoky, at the clubs, and over private dinner-tables. But on Monday night we had a fierce hand-to-hand duel. We expected from the first opening of the House that something of the sort would come off. Certain clusterings of members, and whisperings in the lobby, and the early appearance in their places of several Conservative Lords, augured, as stormy petrels foretell a gale, that there was something in the wind.

When, therefore, on the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair' Mr. Disraeli rose, we were not surprised. And we knew at once by his deliberate manner that he had a studied oration to deliver. He arose quietly and leisurely, he adjusted his waistcoat, he pulled down the sleeves of his coat, *suo more*. He began to speak in his most deliberate and solemn way. And his speech was certainly a great success. It was wonderfully well conceived, and most artistically and dramatically delivered. It was, in short, one of the finest specimens of pugilistic oratory that this notable bruiser ever delivered; and it was universally acknowledged, by friends and foes, that no harder hitting has been heard in the House since those well-remembered days when our clever gladiator pitched into the late Sir Robert Peel with such tremendous effect. Indeed, we say, once for all, that for oratorical pugilism the Caucasian leader of her Majesty's Opposition stands unrivalled. He is the Tom Sayers of the Parliamentary ring, and as a punisher has no equals. He delivers his blows with unerring aim and such tremendous power that you may almost imagine that you hear the "thuds" upon his opponent's body and see said opponent reel under the blows. The Conservatives were of course delighted with the scene, and hailed every hit with tremendous cheers.

CUI BONO?

But as for ourselves we felt but little interest in this onslaught. We remembered similar attacks upon another great financier, and we asked ourselves, *cui bono?* What good either to the State or the performer can come from such fierce assaults? In 1844 scenes like that which we saw on Monday occurred night after night. Then, as now, Disraeli rose and delivered his assault on the great financier of the day; and then, as now, his party hallooed him on with fierce and jubilant cheers. But what came of it? The great statesman was grievously hurt for the time, that was all. But he gained the victory though he was wounded in the fight. And what is the position of the assailed and assailant now? Peel is gone—

Guided by faith and matchless fortitude,
To peace and truth his glorious way has ploughed,

and his name is and ever will be enshrined in the hearts of a grateful people. And what is the position of his assailant? What lasting fame did he get in that memorable fight? Let Mr. Disraeli ask himself this question, and ponder well, with what satisfaction he may, the answer which must suggest itself to his mind.

GLADSTONE'S REPLY.

Upon Gladstone's reply we will say but little. In such a duel he is no match for Disraeli. It is right to say, however, that he hurled back one or two telling blows at his foe; whilst his answers to Disraeli's fallacies were, as far as they went, perfect and complete. In conclusion, we may say that we do not believe that all Mr. Disraeli's Conservative hearers were pleased with this fierce assault. When Protection was at stake the fiercest passions were aroused; but all this has long since passed away, and we fancied whilst Disraeli was speaking that we saw a cloud of sorrow and dissatisfaction steal over the countenances of many of the country gentlemen. And let us note one more fact. Lord Henry Lennox sat on the Liberal side of the House, and, when Disraeli was up, was quite dumb; but, whilst Gladstone was on his legs, his Lordship's approving cheer was heard all over the House.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

EDUCATION.—SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

The Bishop of OXFORD moved for the production of any correspondence with the Committee of Privy Council on Education, or memorials to the committee, in which are stated the objections of her Majesty's inspectors to the examination individually of scholars as being impracticable, as stated in Mr. Lingan's examination.

EARL GRANVILLE stated that at one time, when it was proposed to have an individual examination, a meeting of the inspectors was held, at which they expressed an opinion that such an examination was not practicable if held in connection with the rule that the children should be grouped by age. He yielded to that representation, but he was sorry afterwards that he had done so, as further consideration had convinced him that the examination was practicable. There were no papers on the subject which he could lay upon the table.

The motion was withdrawn.

POLAND.

Lord KINNAIRD put a question to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as to whether he had received any information from our Consul at Warsaw as to whether torture having been used to extort evidence from Alexander Zamoyski?

EARL RUSSELL said it was quite true that a report to the effect that Alexander Zamoyski had been subjected to torture had appeared in the *Gazette de Breslau*, but that a contradiction had subsequently appeared in a well-informed French paper. Her Majesty's Government had, however, no official information as to the truth of the report, which he hoped would prove to be without foundation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MEXICO.

In answer to Mr. S. Fitzgerald, Mr. LAYARD said that official information had been received that a convention had been entered into at Soledad between the Commissioners of the allied Powers and the Government of Mexico. The British force, except one hundred men, had been withdrawn from Mexico. The Government had approved of the convention, which, it was hoped, would carry out the object with which the expedition had been undertaken.

NELSON'S MONUMENT, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.

Mr. W. COWPER, in answer to Admiral Walcott, said he greatly deplored that the Nelson monument was not finished. The order for the lions for its base was given to Sir E. Landseer in 1858, but they had not been finished, although the artist was very earnestly studying the habits of lions. The completion of the monument awaited the execution of these ornaments of its base.

STATE OF POLAND.

Mr. DENMAN called attention to the condition of Poland, and, in moving for certain papers relating thereto, entered into a historical narrative of the sufferings of the Polish nation since the European settlement, and argued that the despotism to which they had been subjected, mainly at the hands of Russia, was a direct contravention of the Treaty of Vienna, which called for the severest reprobation of the Powers who were parties to that compact.

Lord PALMERSTON, having referred to the national antagonism between the Russians and Poles, observed that the recent events which had occurred at Warsaw were to be lamented and deplored. The Poles had, no doubt, just cause of complaint. They were deprived of the constitutional rights which had been guaranteed to them by European treaties, but he believed they would have better consulted their own interests if they had applied their energies to the improvement of agriculture, and had forborne to make demonstrations against the Russian Government, which were only calculated to irritate and which could not be productive of any useful results. At the same time he felt bound to say that the manner in which the Russian Government had visited those harmless demonstrations upon the populace was wholly unworthy of a great or civilised Power. Nothing, in his opinion, could justify the cruelties and persecutions to which the people had been subjected; but he did not think the Emperor was personally cognisant of what had been done in his name. There was reason to believe that he was a kind-hearted and benevolent man; and the willingness which he had shown in giving political power to his subjects at home was a proof that he was not insensible to the responsibility of his high position. At all events, the state of Poland was not a matter in which the British Government could wisely or usefully interfere.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Hennessy, Sir H. Verney, Mr. Monckton Milnes, and Mr. Griffith, but ultimately the motion was withdrawn.

IRON-CLAD SHIPS AND FORTIFICATIONS.

Mr. OSBORNE moved a resolution, "That it is expedient to suspend the construction of the proposed forts at Spithead until the value of iron-roofed gun-boats for the defence of our ports and roadsteads shall have been fully considered." He (Mr. Osborne) did not ask that the works at Spithead should be at once abandoned; his motion went only to their suspension until the value of iron-roofed vessels had been tested,

which he thought was no excessive demand upon the Government. After a rapid review of the question of national defence, and of the discussions upon the propositions of the Government, he read the description of the "peculiarly formidable" forts at Spithead given by the Royal Commissioners, which they at the same time admitted would be totally incapable of stopping the passage of iron-clad steamers. He referred also to the letter of Sir Richard Dundas, who had recommended that an immediate outlay of money would be more properly expended upon iron steam-ships. He complained that, after the large sum expended upon Armstrong guns, the armament of the Navy was in an eminently unsatisfactory condition. He adverted to the action in Hampton Roads, and to the feats of the Merrimac and the Monitor, the invention of which he claimed for Captain Cowper Coles, whose plan had been submitted to our Government six years ago, and quietly put to bed; but while we were reflecting the Americans had been acting. He insisted that it would be good economy for the Government to forfeit their contract for the erection of the forts.

The motion was seconded by Sir M. PETO, who deduced from the report of the Royal Commissioners, and the evidence taken by them, an argument against the utility of the forts for the defence of Portsmouth. He regarded the whole scheme, he said, as a gigantic folly.

Mr. BENTINCK proposed to add to the motion the following words:—"And that this House will, on an early day, resolve itself into a Committee for the purpose of empowering the Government to apply any portion of the moneys which have been voted for the construction of forts to the construction of iron-sheathed vessels, or to the conversion of wooden vessels into iron-sheathed vessels." He was, however, prevented by the forms of the House from moving the amendment.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted that it was difficult to exaggerate the importance of the subject to the most vital interests of the country. He assured the House that the Government had already given their most attentive consideration to the subject of floating batteries, and that they had caused experiments to be made from time to time as to the most effective description of floating battery. The process of iron shipbuilding had gone on with unabated vigour, and in the year 1861 we should have a fleet of sixteen iron ships of enormous strength, in addition to gun-boats. Tenders had also been sent out for the construction of batteries on Captain Cole's principle. With regard to the real question before the House, he did not deny that there was a good deal of plausibility in it; nor was he prepared to say that the Government would not accede to the proposition and suspend the construction of the forts for the present. It should be remembered, however, in estimating the relative advantages of forts and floating batteries, that there was a limit to the weight of armour and guns which a ship could carry, whereas there was no limit to the weight which a permanent fort could bear. The fortifications at Spithead were intended not to prevent the landing of a hostile force, but to protect a vulnerable portion of a most important harbour and dockyard. The only wish of the Government was to do that which was best for the common interest, and therefore they were prepared to assent to the motion with a view to referring the subject back to the Defence Commission, preparatory to a full consideration of the subject after the Easter recess.

Sir J. PAKINGTON thought the Government had exercised a wise discretion, and, after a long and interesting discussion, in which Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Beechey, Lord C. Paget, Mr. Crossley, Sir F. Smith, Mr. Monckton, Lord R. Montagu, and other members took part, the original motion for going into Committee was negatived.

Mr. BENTINCK then moved his amendment on Mr. Osborne's resolution, which had become the original motion.

Sir G. LEWIS opposed the amendment, showing that it would be nugatory.

Mr. BENTINCK having altered the terms of his amendment to meet the objection, a division took place, when it was carried by 74 to 13.

The resolution thus amended was then agreed to.

MONDAY, APRIL 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord CLarendon, in reply to a question from Lord Campbell, stated that the subject of the military drill lately introduced into public schools was at present occupying the attention of the Commission on Public Schools, and would be mentioned in their report.

The Declaration of Title Bill, the Security of Purchasers Bill, the Transfer of Land Bill, and the Real Property Bill, passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PUBLIC FINANCES.

On the order for going into a Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. DISRAELI observed that there was considerable misconception in the public mind upon the subject of our financial position, which he thought was not free from anxiety. There were circumstances, he admitted, under which a Minister of Finance might be justified in commencing the year without a surplus. Unhappily, those circumstances did not exist at present. Our trade was not increasing, our revenue was declining, and the state of affairs in America and Europe was not encouraging. It was, therefore, much to be regretted that the financial year should commence with only a nominal surplus. Why is there not a surplus? was a question asked in and out of the House. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had told the House that he had contemplated a loss by the repeal of the paper duty of £655,000, but that it had proved to be £850,000. Had that duty been retained there would have been a surplus of £1,400,000. Its repeal had been opposed on two main grounds—first, that there was no real surplus; and, secondly, that, looking at the civil war in America, it was more probable that there would be an increase in our naval and military expenditure. The result had been that the civil war had led to an increase in our expenditure exceeding the amount of the paper duty. Then it had been contended that the estimate of the receipt of the China money, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had guaranteed at £750,000, was fallacious, and that he would not receive more than half that amount; and he had actually received less than £400,000. Mr. Gladstone was not responsible. Mr. Disraeli acknowledged, for the finances of the year 1859-60; he would, therefore, take the two succeeding years, and the result in the years 1860-1 and 1861-2 was a united deficiency of £1,000,000. In addition to this deficit, Mr. Gladstone had anticipated the resources of the country to the extent of £3,500,000, so that he had exceeded the ordinary revenue of the country in those two years by £7,500,000, although he sustained the revenue during that time by war duties. Even this was not the full extent of his prodigality, for this was done at a period when the National Debt had been diminished by £2,000,000, the amount of the Turnpike Authorities. How was this deficit supplied? By reckless draughts upon the balances in the Exchequer to the amount of £2,684,000, and by other expedients, which carried the total sum up to £4,026,000. All the rhetorical arts of the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not disguise the critical position of our finances; and he did not propose to extenuate this result? By alleging that the two years were exceptional years. He (Mr. Disraeli) denied that they were exceptional. Then it was said that the National Debt had been reduced by £4,000,000; there was an apparent diminution, but no real reduction; on the contrary, he insisted that there had been an increase of the public debt. But there was another source of consolation in the announcement that the epoch of retrenchment had commenced. How retrenchment was to be effected Mr. Gladstone had not pointed out. What were our prospects if any emergency should arise; if our trade decreased, and want of employment was rife, what were we to fall back upon? The income tax had been treated as a permanent impost, which in its present form it could not remain. The Minister had no right to fritter away the revenue of the country, and leave that tax untouched. One of the most profuse Finance Ministers was constantly insinuating that he objected to the expenditure for which he was providing, and was burning to denounce it—a position at least not consistent with that political morality of which he was once the foremost advocate.

Mr. Bass objected to the proposal for the commutation of the hop duty and the imposition of brewers' licences.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, after explaining the modifications proposed of the scheme of brewing licences and the mode in which licences were to be obtained, replied to what he termed the historical review of Mr. Disraeli, who did not, he remarked ironically, resort to rhetorical artifices. He had said things that were true and things that were new; but, unfortunately, the things that were true were not new, and those that were new were not true. There ran through his whole speech a fallacy which vitiated the arguments of those who had no faith in our late commercial policy as to the effect which the remission as well as the reduction of duties had upon the revenue. Mr. Disraeli had given the financial results of three years, absolving him (Mr. Gladstone) from responsibility for the first year. But it so happened that that year was one of a considerable surplus, and Mr. Disraeli quoted assertions of his (Mr. Gladstone's), made with reference to the three years, as if he had made them in relation to the two years. Mr. Gladstone reasserted that the two years were exceptional years, or he did not know, he said, what was an exceptional year. He pointed out errors which, he insisted, Mr. Disraeli had committed in charging him with exhausting by anticipation the ordinary revenues; and, with respect to the failure of the China receipts, he had, he said, with a positive contradiction. He denied that he had given any personal guarantee of the amount; he had founded his estimate upon the safest authorities, and had stated the grounds of it. In the only two cases in which Mr. Disraeli had prepared estimates, not for China, but for England—the tax on cheques and the duty on Irish spirits—he had egregiously erred; they had not realised one-third of the sum he had reckoned upon receiving. Then the proposal to repeal the paper duty was said to be imprudent. Mr. Disraeli seemed to be incapable of appreciating the effect which such remissions of duty had upon the general revenue by their reproductive energy. But Mr. Disraeli said it was imprudent to part with £600,000 or £700,000. What, however, did he and his party propose? To part with £950,000 by a reduction of the tea duty. If there had been

any blame in the financial policy of the Government, he was ready, as the Financial Minister, to bear it. He should be content, he said, if the result of this discussion should convince the House that the condition of the country with reference to its finances was deserving of grave attention; that its temporary resources were nearly exhausted, and that it was the duty of the House to consider what should be the future scale of our taxation.

A discussion of some length ensued, in which the Budget and the whole of our revenue policy were reviewed.

The House then went into Committee, and agreed to the resolutions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for raising a million sterling by Exchequer Bonds; for reimposing the income and property tax and the tea and sugar duties for one year; for occasional licences to sell beer, spirits, &c.; for reducing the duty on playing-cards from 1s. to 3d. per pack; and for levying a duty of one-eighth per cent on foreign loan bonds. The House then resumed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

On the second reading of the Thaines Embankment Bill,

Sir J. SHIRLEY moved that the second reading be postponed, and after a discussion this motion was negatived by 116 to 9 and the second reading agreed to. The bill was referred to a Select Committee.

The Hull South Bridge Bill passed through Committee.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Piers and Harbours Act Amendment Bill passed through Committee. The Industrial Schools Act (1861) Amendment Bill was read a third time and passed. The other bills on the paper were advanced a stage.

Earl GRANVILLE announced that the Easter recess would commence on Friday (yesterday), and terminate on Tuesday, the 29th inst.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

On the motion of Mr. W. EWART, a Select Committee was appointed to consider the practicability of adopting a simple and uniform system of weights and measures, with a view not only to the benefit of our internal trade, but to facilitate our trade and intercourse with foreign countries.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The report of the Committee of Ways and Means was brought up and agreed to. The Australian Colonies Government Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CLERGY RELIEF BILL.

Mr. BOUVERIE moved the second reading of the Clergy Relief Bill, and explained that its object was to afford relief to the ordained ministers of the Church of England who might, from conscientious scruples, have changed their opinions since their ordination. Many clergymen who had held opinions most opposed to each other—for instance, Mr. Baptist Noel and Archdeacon Manning—had felt that they could not conscientiously continue their subscription to the doctrines of the Church of England, and had resigned their preferments. Under these circumstances, it was neither just nor right to prevent them from withdrawing from the Established Church.

After some discussion the bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

Some other measures, not of special public interest, were advanced a stage.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ITALIAN PAPERS.

In reply to the Marquis of Normanby, Earl RUSSELL said all the papers bearing on the question in the possession of the Foreign Office had been given to the noble Marquis.

The Chancery Regulation Bill was read a second time.

THE REVISED CODE.

Lord LYVEDEN asked whether the Government would be willing to assent to the appointment of a Select Committee, after Easter, to consider the operation of the revised code?

Earl GRANVILLE said the Government were very well satisfied with the discussions that had already taken place on the subject. They had been conducted with great impartiality and freedom from party spirit. He was not, therefore, prepared to assent to a Select Committee being appointed on the subject.

The following bills were read a third time and passed—viz., the Whipping Bill and the Pier and Harbour Amendment Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE WARRIOR TARGET.

Mr. H. SHERIDAN asked whether it was true that at Shoeburyness, on the 5th inst., the Warrior target was twice pierced through by round shots?

Lord C. PAGET said the best answer he could give would be to refer to a report of the proceedings on Tuesday last which appeared in the *Times* this morning. A fairer or more graphic report could not have been written.

Sir J. PAKINGTON inquired whether the Admiralty had sanctioned the publication of the report or permitted it?

Lord C. PAGET said the Admiralty had given no sort of sanction to the publication of the report, and he doubted whether publicity was advisable in such cases.

GREAT GRIMSBY ELECTION.

Mr. E. EGERTON brought up a report from the Great Grimsby Election Committee, whose unanimous opinion was that Mr. John Chapman was duly elected.

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

This bill was read a third time and passed.

BREWERS' LICENCES.

On the motion of going into a Committee of Ways and Means to consider the resolutions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Mr. BASS took an objection to the proposition respecting brewers' licences, and moved, as an amendment, to defer the consideration of that question until the next day.

After some conversation, Mr. Bass withdrew his amendment, and the House went into Committee.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER then moved his resolutions, specifying the amount of excise duties proposed to be levied upon licences to brew beer, briefly explaining the nature of the new scale of licences which were to be assessed as a commutation of the hop duty.

After considerable discussion the resolutions were agreed to.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of.

COTTON AND ITS CULTIVATION.

COTTON (the *Gossypium herbaceum* of botany) is a shrub. Its nature is tropical. In Asia, Africa, and America it grows wild. Although our chief supply of it comes from a country which numbers so few among the records of the world, the use of cotton is of very remote antiquity. Time was when the inhabitants of the old three-quarters of the world had cotton in abundance, and no South American planters were born or thought of. In Hindostan it existed in the days of Herodotus, and was even then employed as the raw material for an extensively-useful manufacture made up by the natives. Strabo, too, mentions both the shrub and the manufacture. In modern times cotton culture has attained incomparable pre-eminence in America, especially the Sea Island, which is the best produced. In 1840 this description obtained in Liverpool the enormous price of three shillings per pound, whereas Surat cotton, which is the worst growth of India has been as low as twopence. These may be regarded, perhaps, as the two greatest extremes between which the commercial value of cotton has, as a rule, oscillated. Then, to show more completely how considerable this variation has been, we may as well give the lowest price within late years of Sea Island cotton—namely, 9d. per lb., and the highest of Surat, which in 1850 fetched 6d. In March, 1861, Sea Island cotton brought from 7d. to 8d. per lb., last month the price was from 1s. to 1s. 1d., and is still rising. Enlightened by these simple statistics, we now perceive how momentously the welfare of the cotton-dealer is likely to be modified by any extraordinary and exceptional causes liable to augment the natural excessive fluctuation upon which he must calculate in the price of his purchases. From 9d. to 3s. for the best sort is a wide range of fluctuation, and from 2d. to 6d. for the worst, is almost as bad. What a world of room to cramp the operations of a market, and finally to shut it up altogether! With the deficiency, the uncertainty, and the inferiority consequent upon existing combinations of political influences, added to this normal state of variation, how tremendous would be the increase of the difficulties to be met! If not for the sake of anything else, at least for the sake of Manchester and her vegetable nobility, let us do something towards the stability and extension of a market we most of us can do so ill without. It is computed that, directly and in-

directly, 4,000,000 of our people are concerned in cotton industry, while the mere manufacture, as carried on in Great Britain alone, employs directly, according to Mr. M. Culloch's estimate, no fewer than 1,500,000 persons.

Although it is undeniable that it was in consequence of the call for cotton wool being stimulated by the increased consumption resulting from the various inventions of mechanical genius that the energetic and systematic cultivation of the plant in the Southern provinces of the Union began and flourished, Mr. Rathbone, an American merchant residing in Liverpool, so early as 1761, received from his correspondent in the United States eight bags of Transatlantic growth, as a specimen of what that country could produce. This, to a great extent, might have been obnoxious and indefinite, for it was not until 1785 that the cotton husbandry of the American States commenced in right earnest. Georgia and Carolina were the two States which at that date turned their thoughts in this profitable direction. The seed came from the Bahamas, which in the first instance owed to the Isle of Aguilas, in the Caribbean Sea, the origination of the most esteemed species. In commercial phraseology, all the raw cottons coming from New Orleans, and called indiscriminately by the Liverpool brokers American cottons, are classed under two comprehensive descriptions, the long stapled and the short stapled. The great valley of the Mississippi and large tracts of country extending of late years far and wide into the Texas form the grand area of plantations which in their luxuriant fertility yield an annual crop of more than 30,000,000lb. The Sea Island variety above referred to as the most valuable is of the long-stapled class. Its wool is slightly yellow, very silky, and of unusual length. Its seed is black. The islands upon which it is grown—hence its name—are situated along the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. One cause of its superiority is to be found in the nature of sea air, which varied experience has taught the planter is indispensable to the perfection of the cotton shrub. Indeed, so great an affinity exists between this plant and the saline principle, that sea mud is actually applied as manure to the ground preparing for its reception. In corroboration of this partiality for a marine situation, we may further quote the result of an experiment tried in India—namely, though cotton grown from seed sown in localities near the sea (the experiment was made with Bourbon seed) may be found to thrive to an extent in every way satisfactory, transplanted to an inland spot (for the cotton tested was removed to Benares), it will probably prove—as in the case in question it did prove—a total failure.

The multifarious kinds of the plant from which the cotton wools are gathered present much dissimilarity of size and appearance. Sometimes it assumes the character of a shrub six or seven feet high, and at others it rises itself above the earth only three or even two feet. The foliage, too, of these varieties takes very distinct forms—the vine-leaved, palmate and many more. The flowers, the seeds, and the filamentous down investing them, which is the wool of commerce, are of different tints. As regards this last, the fact may be seen in the material called nankeen, the peculiar colour of which proceeds from that of the natural filaments of which its texture consists. Neither is there any very rigid resemblance of constitution among them, for all undergo so many modifications when acted upon by the influence of soil, climate, and mode of husbandry, that both in the field and in the market their characteristics are widely different. In some places the plant is an annual, but is sown on the same land only every third year; whilst we have in others shrubs which flourish and yield wool during the whole of that period. At Pernambuco, Brazil, and in the Leeward Islands, the shrub is triennial; a small quantity of wool is borne the first year, more during the second, and after the third it is abandoned. But all the plants of the Southern States of the American Union are annuals. It seems to be an ascertained fact, however, pervading every region in which cotton has been cultivated, that it exhausts to a very alarming degree the generative and nutritive virtues of the soil upon which it is grown; so much so that the produce of the same fields, which, when first brought under cultivation, was immense, has in many instances dwindled away, in the course of a few years, to comparative insignificance. In such parts of colonies as abound in cheap and plentiful land it has often been the habit, as the soil gets drained of its fertilising properties, to remove the culture from spot to spot, in preference to adopting any of the less salutary and more precarious expedients of manuring, dressing, and shifting crops. The old lands in Guinea are, for the purpose of renovation, frequently inundated with sea-water.

The low, sandy islands scattered along the coast common to South Carolina and Georgia appear, when viewed from a distance, or by superficial inspection, to be territories as diminutive in value as they are in dimensions. But here it is that the universally-celebrated cotton which has contributed so essentially to the marvellous achievements of Lancashire is reared. Most of these yellow little islets were formerly covered with extensive pine barrens. Where we now hear the imperious voice of man and behold the fruits of his transforming labour, a hundred years ago the silence of nature was unbroken except by the cry of the lone sea bird, whose wild music chimed harmoniously with the surge or melted away in unaccompanied melody over the broad sea, sleeping calmly round about. Cotton cultivation was not unknown in South Carolina so early as the very commencement of the last century, when Governor Smith introduced it for the first time. The idea was a happy one, and circumstances proving auspicious, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and other contiguous States gradually took it up, and together they eventually became the gigantic cotton-garden of the world. Of comparatively recent date, however, is the distinction gained by Texas.

As all the world knows and laments, the cultivation of this wealth-creating, work-providing shrub is in America carried on entirely by slave-labour; and it has been maintained that the substitution of free labour would so run up the cost of picking—picking especially, for picking is a dilatory and tedious operation—as to act fatally on the question of remuneration which the planter is of all men most anxious to adjust on a satisfactory basis. It need hardly be added that this shortsighted policy takes the form of an apology, put forward by those whose silly apprehensions for their own selfish advantage preponderate over the sagacity, liberality, and charity in which the cotton-planters as a class are not deficient. The slaves thus supply the field labour of the States number, in the low country, three-fourths of the entire population.

Before the enhanced demand for cotton promised such flattering results to its cultivators, rice, indigo, maize, and tobacco were the principal vegetable products of South Carolina. Now, whilst this last has taken the place of indigo (indigo having fallen almost entirely out of cultivation), cotton has become the great staple of exportation, 20,000 bags being yearly sent away from South Carolina and Georgia alone. The further extension of this kind of agriculture, however, does not appear possible in the United States, for physical reasons lead us to conclude that it has already nearly, if not quite, reached its climax. In 1859 60 the supply from this quarter amounted to 4,675,770 bags, whereas the year 1860-1 produced but 3,700,000, a disparity not to be accounted for by any of those fortuitous circumstances which regularly affect all production. And as regards the famous long-stapled cotton of the islands of South Carolina and Georgia, the above inference is still more forcibly and emphatically correct. The produce of inland districts is, in respect of quality, coarser and shorter in the staple than that nurtured by the seaside. What is technically termed the Georgia Upland is of this description, and is accordingly adapted for spinning into stout yarns only. In proportion to their distance from the briny deep the cotton-fields suffer abatement in reference to the quality of their yield. Twenty-five miles is the maximum limit beyond which the character of the wool undergoes a marked deterioration. The finest seeds, therefore,

sown within this range, and perhaps the finest of all, fructify on the small islands of Edisto, Wadmalan, and St. Helena, which fringe a portion of the Carolinian seaboard. The process of cultivation in lands and latitudes suited to the plant is neither costly nor difficult; but in the States of North America it is attended with considerable risk, and requires frequent and vigilant interference. In the two States to which we have so often alluded the caterpillar is computed to devour the leaves once in every seven years, when, of course, the destruction of the crop is inevitable. There are worms, too, equally prejudicial to the health of the plant, and in their depredations almost equally disastrous. Then, rains and winds, which in these latitudes are excessively violent, inflict their share of mischief upon the ill-fated victim.

Although it is not our intention to write a practical treatise on the rearing of cotton, a few facts connected with the subject, conveyed in a few words, may be of some general interest. The quantity of seed sown to an acre is, on an average, about half a bushel. The first material care falling on the cultivator, after the plant has attained a certain amount of strength and elevation, is the joint operation of hoeing and cleaning. This latter consists in freeing it from grass and weeds, the spontaneous growth of which is generally rapid, and its effects so noxious that it must be dealt with by a summary process of ejection or extirpation. This takes place between April and June. Then comes thinning, which involves toil and judgment, and is likewise performed chiefly during the act of hoeing. When the boles crack, which they do with a loud explosive noise very appreciable by the ear, it is a signal that the season for plucking the fleecy treasure has arrived. This gathering of the crop, which is also a work of time, delicacy, and patience, peculiarly well adapted to the minute instrumentality of a child's hand, commences about the middle of August, and is brought to completion with the month of November. As the value of the wool depends very mainly upon the cleaning or ginning, great attention should be given to this important operation, which is so differently accomplished on different estates that it is often a principal cause of the variation in price of the same description of produce. It is thought that, if the Egyptian cotton were thoroughly well ginned and thus freed from the gross impurities with which it is commonly mixed, it would approach nearer in value to the genuine Sea Island than any other sort imported; but, with the present imperfections in cleaning prevalent in Egypt, the innate quality of the material, which is excellent, undergoes a false and unnecessary deterioration. Of wool in this clean condition, five hundred weight is the average yield of four acres of plantation.

As there have been great benefactors to the spinning and weaving departments of the economy of cotton, so now and then men of ingenuity and enterprise have sprung up meriting in the estimation of the planters the highest praise and the deepest gratitude—men whose cunning inventions, though less brilliant than those begotten of the special necessities of the manufacturer, have greatly facilitated production and multiplied its pecuniary returns. The difficulty which has occupied so much attention has been that of freeing the silky fibres within the pod from the husks, seeds, and other foreign substances with which they get encumbered. The names of Harvie, Eli Whitney, and Joseph Eubank, distinguished in connection with this and kindred objects, sound as sweetly in the ears of the growers of cotton wool as do those of Hargreaves, Cartwright, Crompton and Arkwright, in the ears of its manipulators. Though the ginner's is usually a distinct calling from the planter's, the intimacy of their relationship is such as to give the same melody and the same fragrance to the eulogiums conferred by either. But while the Arkwrights and their spinning-frames are elements in the affairs of the manufacturers, the producers and cleaners stick to the Whitneys and their ginning devices. In its preparation for transmission to England the cotton after ginning is tightly packed in bags. In this state it arrives at the port of Liverpool, and is immediately warehoused by the brokers, a class of middlemen whose business it is to negotiate sales to the manufacturers of Manchester. Once deposited at the factory, the reception it meets with begins with a sound thrashing. After beating it out, it is more carefully cleaned by an instrument known as the scutcher. Then it is carded, the effect of which is to abstract the shorter fibres and arrange those of uniform length which remain in united parallel, upon which much of the success of subsequent manipulations depends. In this state the cotton, now called "sliver," undergoes a drawing process, and is afterwards still further attenuated, and at the same time slightly twisted by the "roving" or "slubbing" machine, when at last it is ready for spinning into yarn, through the agency of the mule for weft and that of the throste for twist. Weaving, which so wonderfully conjoins in close and compact intimacy these filamentous creations of the spinning-frame, consists of twist for the warp, or lengthway of the cloth, and weft for the thread with which this is traversed. This weaving into piece goods, as the diversities of cloth are styled, can be performed either by the hand or the power-loom, though it is needless to say, in these days of Archimedean genius, the latter is practically by far the more common alternative. After the web has been thus constructed bleaching succeeds; after bleaching, dyeing; upon dyeing follows printing, and to printing succeeds calendering and packing, when the goods are ready for the market.

In the preparation of the above article we have drawn largely upon an interesting paper on the subject which appeared in a late number of *Once a Week*. We now add an extract from the letter which accompanied the sketches from which our Illustrations of cotton cultivation have been taken. It is dated from Port Royal, South Carolina, Jan 15, 1862:—

At last I am enabled to remit you the sketches illustrating the gathering of cotton in the islands in this vicinity. I went on board the steamer *Mayflower*, Captain Phillips, and visited the following plantations, where the cotton was being picked, ginned, and bagged for transportation to New York, after being discharged from out of the *Mayflower* into Government steamer. The plantations I first visited were Mr. Pope's, Dr. Jennings', Frogmore's, and Drayton's. I here witnessed the *modus operandi* through all its branches. That I might thoroughly observe all I could, I employed four days in the investigation and sketching, filling up the more elaborate minutiae afterwards. When I left the *Mayflower*, through the kindness of my friend, Mr. Benj. Salisbury, now stationed at Dr. Jennings' plantation (under Colonel Reynolds, Government Cotton Agent, who has the supreme superintendence of collecting cotton for the United States), I was furnished with a "Seecsh" horse and pig, and we enjoyed a delightful ride of five miles, through woods and cotton-fields, to Dr. Jennings' plantation. This is certainly the finest one I have seen. The mansion is a large one of two stories, with spacious verandahs, fine airy rooms, with a noble flower-garden in front, most tastefully arranged. Near the garden is built a spacious library and billiard-room, containing a costly billiard-table, with all its appurtenances. In the rear are splendid stables, with harness, &c.; while on the right side, close by, stand rows of negro huts, built in the usual monotonous style of architecture. The proprietor of this lordly estate left everything at the first roar of the National artillery. As far as it is possible, the property of these unhappy and deluded men is preserved for future consideration, despite the orders given by Massa to Sanbo to burn everything, rather than it should fall into the hands of the Yankees.

The work of ginning, picking, packing, bagging, and shipping is performed by the negroes here, who work cheerfully and efficiently, receiving from Uncle Sam food, clothing, and a trifling as wages. I am convinced that negroes are accessible to a firm kindness as well as to the rod of terror. The McCarty steam-gin is considered as the model machinery for this kind of work, and 200lb. is the daily quantity one of these machines can accomplish.

The obstructions which the war in America has occasioned to the export of cotton from that country, and the almost total suspension of cultivation which has followed, have given a stimulus to the production of the article elsewhere; and in India, Egypt, Algeria, our own West India Islands, and other places, strenuous efforts are being made to obtain the advantages hitherto almost monopolised by America. Though the attempt will probably fail in some quarters, it will certainly succeed in others; and the Western Continent may not only lose its monopoly of the cotton market, but, by rendering it unprofitable, a deathblow may even be given to the system of slavery.





FEEDING HORSES.—(FROM A PICTURE BY JOHN BROWN.)

"HORSES FEEDING."

THE artist from whose picture our Engraving is taken has already attained to a very high standard of excellence, and at each exhibition to which he contributes his success seems to increase in proportion to the labour which he evidently bestows upon the lifelike rendering of the subjects chosen for the display of his art.

Of five pictures sent by Mr. Brown to the last French Exhibition of Paintings, one of the most striking is "Horses Feeding," since it is admirable both in its design and execution. The animals (or rather the heads, for the artist has confined himself to the heads as being sufficient to display the effects of his skilful pencil) are full of vigour, and stand out with marvellous reality; while one might almost fancy that he hears them luxuriously champing the fresh green herbs as they revel in a true vegetarian banquet, and can almost detect the delicate perfume of the newly-cut grasses. The woman who tends these gourmands is but an accessory to the picture, and yet more pains might have been taken in the execution of the figure, which is conventionally treated and deficient in finish. The entire picture, however, displays the power of the artist, and is one of the best of those delineations of animal life for which Mr. Brown has become famous.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

HAVING regard to the large demand which the necessary Illustrations and Descriptive Notices of the Great International Exhibition will shortly make on the already limited space of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, the Proprietors feel that, in order to give due prominence to this important national event, an enlargement of the Paper will be absolutely necessary. They beg, therefore, to announce that the dimensions of the present sheet will be increased so as to admit of a considerable enlargement in the size of the printed page, and also of a more ample margin. The quality of the paper will at the same time be improved, to enable justice to be done to the numerous highly-finished Engravings which it is intended to produce in connection with the Great International Exhibition of 1862.

In addition to the above, the Proprietors have to announce that during the period the Exhibition will remain open it is their intention to issue with the ILLUSTRATED TIMES a series of

GRATUITOUS ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENTS,

embracing Representations of the Interior of the Exhibition building from the most interesting points of view, and also of its more remarkable Contents. These Illustrations will be drawn and engraved in the most careful manner, and will be printed separately on fine paper.

The proposed change in the size of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES will take place on Saturday, May 3, the Number for which date will contain an account of the opening of the Exhibition, very fully illustrated. On this occasion the first Gratuitous Illustrated Supplement will be issued, to be followed at intervals by the remaining Supplements.

The Price of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES in its enlarged form will be 3d., and the Number for May 3 will form the commencement of a new volume, which will comprise an elaborate illustrated record of the Great International Exhibition of 1862 complete in itself.

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES for April 26 a Titlepage and Index to Vol. XIV. will be issued.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1862.

A GENTEL PASTIME.

MORAL philosophers tell us that there is a tendency in the highest states of civilisation to break loose occasionally and enjoy as the keenest luxury the privations and the habits of savage life. The same principle displays itself frequently with respect to other social conditions. The most dissolute state of English society was that in which the nation indulged upon the destruction of the stern rule of the Puritans. We have heard of an accomplished lady, a tutor in the highest circles, who, after a few hours of literary teaching of Princesses, was wont to solace herself at home by talking with the most reckless mispronunciation of her native tongue, alleging, as a reason for her transposition of v's and w's and aspirants and non-aspirants, that she found it "so refreshing." In like manner there may be traced as one of the most curious developments of opulence that it frequently exhibits a proclivity to straggle into mendicancy. In fact, one of the genteel amusements of the time appears to be simply begging.

Now, as in most human matters, there is much that is good underlying this fact. As in all of them, there is an excess which becomes either ridiculous or wrong, or both. It is but a few days since that there was extensively delivered in the metropolis a thick packet, contained in a flimsy envelope, bearing in the corner in printed characters "The Lord Mayor." It bore a striking resemblance to the style of advertising medium chiefly patronised by itinerant linendrapers, and, no doubt, was as such consigned to many a waste-paper basket. But it was in truth a circular, published and delivered by his Lordship's authority, containing thirty-two closely-printed pages, and filled with the names of subscribers and amounts of their donations to the fund for a memorial to the late lamented Prince.

Here, then, is the first fruit of a nation's liberality. A sum of money is subscribed for a memorial to a beloved and revered personage, and the first outlay is upon a memorial to the donors themselves in the form of an advertisement of them and their gifts!

But this is not all. A sum perhaps superior to any ever yet raised by voluntary subscription to commemorate the virtues of any one deceased since the world began has been already collected, as appears by this book. We now learn that, as the subscription has hitherto been confined to the opulent classes, a project is on foot for "affording opportunity" to the less wealthy and the operative classes to testify—whatever the projectors may choose to add; but in reality the assiduity of their own canvass, their desire to thrust themselves forward into a cheap, fussy notoriety, and their expertness in the genteel game of begging.

Few but the poor know the annoyance caused by this demi-fashionable sport. The housewife is called from her domestic duties, the husband from his hardly-earned leisure, to listen, with that politeness which, to their honour, the poor always display on such occasions, to the request of some well-dressed,

stranger lady, who at any other time would flounce past the whole family with intense disdain, but who now begs the pleasure of adding a mite to her subscription-list. Not that she cares a straw for the penny or the sixpence which deprives the children of an enjoyment or the parents of a loaf, but because she wishes to see as high a figure as may be following the line "Collected by Mrs. and the Misses De Gawker. . . ."

And suppose that, by dint of "putting on the screw," as it is termed in the slang of the game, the amount already raised should be doubled by pence from servants, artisans, and children—what then? What will be done with it? Any one of the slightest experience in such matters can tell readily enough. There is a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand—in the form of a begging hand, a clutching hand—which will develop and expand as it grows nearer, until at length the whole nation will view the entire form and features of the great National Ogre—the Giant Jobbery. There will be advertisements, there will be meetings, there will be commissions to indolent sculptors who will never execute them, and to incompetent ones who will; there will be, probably, as before, a grand national nightmare competition of inappropriate designs, to be exhibited at Westminster Hall; and the result will be, after a lavish squander in every direction but the right one, there will be some ghastly stone-sheeted caricature or horrible bronze Bogey, making hideous some place of public resort, and affording all Europe a new theme of ridicule.

Let us not be misunderstood. We yield to none in our appreciation, nay, our admiration, of the many illustrious qualities of him who has been removed from us. We believe such appreciation and such admiration to be as general and as complete among all classes as any national sentiment can possibly be. But these are not to be represented by the collection of small coin of the realm from the struggling and the needy; and those who act as if they thought such a feeling could be so portrayed, only betray their own utter misconception of its origin and objects.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

WE HEAR that it is her Majesty's intention to return from Osborne about the end of May, and in August to proceed to Scotland; after which the Queen will go for a short time to Saxe-Coburg Gotha.

THE PRINCE OF LEININGEN has been appointed to the command of the frigate Magicienne.

PRINCE LEOPOLD has arrived at Osborne from France, and we are glad to say, in excellent health.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE, it is said, will not accompany the Emperor on his approaching visit to London at the opening of the International Exhibition.

PRINCE NAPOLEON was expected to leave Paris for London on Thursday, accompanied by Colonels Ferri-Pisan and de Framontiere, his Aides-de-Camp.

THE EARL OF DERBY has been suffering from severe indisposition, but is now so far recovered that hopes are held out by his medical attendants that the noble Earl will be able to proceed to the country to recruit his health during the approaching Parliamentary recess.

GARIBOLDI is to visit London during the exhibition, and will also pay his respects to various towns in the provinces during his sojourn in this country.

A NOTICE FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICER states that the Bavarian Government no longer requires the passports of British subjects to be valid.

THE JAPANESE AMBASSADORS have arrived at Marseilles. They were received by the Marquis de Trévise, senator, and by Count de Maupas, with military honours.

JUPITER AND SATURN may now be seen close together. It will be twelve years before they are again in such close proximity.

UP TO LAST WEEK the total number of workmen killed while working at the Exhibition building was sixteen. About fifty have been seriously injured, and many of these permanently disabled by the amputation of legs and arms.

THE PRIZE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION will be held at Wimbledon, beginning on July 1.

THE VALUE OF THE BRITISH SALMON EXPORTED from the United Kingdom in 1859 was £18,620; in 1860, £22,379; and in 1861, £23,536.

COKE'S CUPOLAS WEIGH ONLY 72 TONS to Ericsson's 200 tons. No little difference of weight for a ship to carry!

A RIOT WHICH OCCURRED AT THE LATE LINCOLN ELECTION has, it appears, cost the borough £500. At a special meeting of the Town Council that sum has been voted to repair the damage done to property in the city and defray the expenses of bringing the military from Sheffield.

SIR ROBERT PEEL was burned in effigy at Killarney the other day—a proceeding succeeded by three cheers for "The O'Donoghue."

THE VALUE OF IMPORTS INTO MONTREAL last year was 16,814,161 dols., and the duties collected on them amounted to 2,391,819 dols.

THREE BRITISH OFFICERS, with their servants, are reported to have been murdered between Gwalior and Jharasi, India.

JAMES LAWRENCE, who shot Anne Cox at Hendon last week, is progressing favourably towards recovery, notwithstanding the frightful injuries he inflicted upon himself. The Coroner's jury has returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against him.

GEORGE CLEVERING LIGHT, a rag-gatherer, who resided at Stockton, three or four weeks since came into possession of £20,000. He has since killed himself by excessive drinking.

PRIVATE GEORGE HUNT, of the 10th Royal Hussars, has been "drummed out" of the regiment at York. He will now have to undergo a long period of imprisonment. Hunt had deserted, and generally bore a bad character.

LAST WEEK A BOY was killed and several persons severely injured by a boiler explosion at Barrow and Co.'s sawmills, Hull.

THE DETROIT AND MICHIGAN RAILWAY have earned £30,000 by carrying troops during the last year.

A FEW DAYS AGO A CHILD living in Horstedown got hold of a packet of gunpowder, placed it in a pan, and put the latter on a fire. An explosion immediately followed, when three persons were seriously mutilated, and remain at Guy's Hospital in a very precarious condition.

THE MAGISTERIAL CHANGES consequent on the death of Mr. Beadon will be completed by the removal of Mr. Knox from Worship-street to Marlborough-street, and the appointment to the vacancy at Worship-street of Mr. William Major Cooke, of the Western Circuit, Recorder of Southampton.

A NUMBER OF SWALLOWS were seen in the neighbourhood of Newthorpe, Ireland, on the 31st ult. Their appearance in March is thought to indicate the likelihood of a dry and more than usually hot summer.

THE LAST OF THE SONS OF AUDUBON, the great naturalist, has just died in the United States. The widow of Audubon still lives. She is nearly ninety years of age.

IT IS STATED IN THE AMERICAN PAPERS that the steamer Fingal, which ran the blockade at Savannah with a large cargo of munitions of war, was being converted into an iron-plated vessel at that port for service against the Federal fortresses at Port Royal. The Vanderbilt is being similarly converted by the Federals.

A LETTER FROM L'ORIENT of April 3 states that the trial of the new iron-plated frigate La Couronne has been completely successful, and that this ship, one of the first specimens of the kind, answers well to the helm, and may be worked with equal facility either by steam or sail.

LORD HOBART, who has been selected by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Earl Russell, as British Commissioner to Turkey, has taken his departure for Constantinople to assume his diplomatic duty.

THE DANISH RIGGAARD has voted 1,000,000 of rix-dollars for the construction of an iron-plated vessel.

LADY LAURA GRATTAN drove in a phaeton to see a picturesque ravine at the Dargle. She left the vehicle, desiring the driver to return. In doing so the road gave way, and phaeton, horses, and driver were precipitated a depth of 150ft. The horses were killed, and the carriage smashed; but the groom escaped with a deep cut on the head.

AT THE PAPER WORKS OF MESSRS. POTTER, at Lower Darwen, as a young woman was cleaning a machine her head was by some means caught in the machinery, and it and the upper part of her body were drawn into the scutcher and fearfully mangled, causing instant death.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF TOULOUSE has determined on a jubilee to commemorate a "glorious event" which occurred in that city 300 years ago. This "glorious event" was nothing less than one of the most diabolical massacres of Protestants recorded in history—about 5000 persons having been treacherously murdered, after having had their lives guaranteed. The Government have interdicted the celebration.

THE PRUSSIAN MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR has decided that organ-grinders, like pedlars, must take out an annual licence for the exercise of their vocation. It is "feared" the grinders, in consequence of this decision, will emigrate in a body. Will they come to unheeded England? The Fates forbid!

A LETTER FROM MALTA, dated March 29, states that there is a good deal of ill-feeling existing just now between the military and a portion of the inhabitants, which has broken out during the past week in several disturbances.

MR. HOLMES, corn-merchant, Retford, who attended Sheffield market, was stepping out of the train from Retford, when he was accosted by a stranger, and shortly afterwards Mr. Holmes found his pocket had been picked of a bag containing £120 in gold!

MR. CARLYLE, who has found that it will require five volumes to contain his "History of Frederick the Great," has resolved to publish the third volume, which has been printed off some time, by itself. The fourth volume, which is well advanced in type, will likely be kept back until the completion of the fifth.

A FEW DAYS AGO W. BALDOCH, aged twenty-two, a compositor out of work, and who was in very depressed spirits, threw himself a distance of sixty feet from an elevation near the Derby road into the mouth of a tunnel which runs into the Nottingham Park, and died in a few minutes.

A LARGE SILVER WATCH was lately purchased at a public sale in France for 15. This watch, on examination, was found to have belonged to the Revolutionist Couthon. The name of the Conventionist was engraved in the interior of the case under a death's-head, over which was drawn the knife of the guillotine, crowned with oak leaves.

THE GARDEN OF THE REV. J. T. BENNETT, of Cheveley Rectory, in order to frighten small birds from a bed of seeds, had erected an effigy of a man with outstretched arms, but, on going to remove it a few days back, he was surprised to find that a robin had actually ventured under the hat, and snugly built its little nest upon the head of the scarecrow. The nest was suffered to remain undisturbed.

THE COMTE DE PARIS has contributed £20 to the fund raised by the Gowrie Banking Club, of which he was at one time a member, for relief of the distress in Connemara.

THE REV. ALFRED CAY, from St. George's-in-the-East, who has been in charge of the parish of Harringay, near Hounslow, for a short time, was presented on Saturday by the churchwardens and parishioners with a purse of gold and an engrossed testimonial; and, by the young man of the church choir, with a handsome silver goblet, as tokens of respect and esteem.

THERE IS NOW LIVING near the Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks, a man named William Weaver, who attained his 101st year on the 29th of December last. He is in full possession of all his faculties.

MR. MALVIN, a respected City merchant, was killed at Berkhamsted railway-station on Saturday last. He incautiously attempted to cross the line in front of an advancing train, was knocked down and killed instantaneously.

IT IS EXPECTED that the accumulation of grain at the several ports on Lake Michigan and the upper end of Lake Erie by the 1st of May will be sufficient for 1000 cargoes, at 15,000 bushels a cargo.

TWO MEN WERE KILLED and several others injured in a coalpit near Chesterfield on Monday by the fall of large masses of "bind" from the face of the mine.

MR. ROBERTS, M.P., has announced his intention of building and supporting at his own expense an hospital at Rotherham for the benefit of the working miners of the district.

A LEGACY OF £8000 has been left by the late Mr. George Faulkner, of Manchester, for the purpose of restoring the tower of the Manchester Cathedral. The full estimated cost of the restoration has now been raised by this generous assistance.

THE NEWS FROM CHINA is distressing. The inhabitants of Nanking, who were being besieged by the rebels, had been reduced to a state of starvation, and had, it is said, resorted to the horrible practice of cannibalism.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON has presented an additional contribution of 200 guineas to the National Life-boat Institution. The Lord Mayor has also just given to the society a donation of ten guineas.

THE WORKMEN OF BELGIUM, and especially of the city of Ghent, are suffering severely from stagnation of trade, consequent upon the war in America.

MARY REID, of Timany, wife of Francis Timany, was convicted at the Dublin Assizes, on Tuesday, of the murder of Ann Hannah, on the 13th of January last, and sentenced to be hanged.

A COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS has been engaged during the week in trying a petition against the return of Mr. Chapman for Great Grimsby. Strong allegations of bribery were made, and as stoutly denied. The committee have not yet come to a decision.

KEENAN has arrived in England, and has made public the fact that he has not come with the view of fighting, although, he remarks, he is quite competent to defend both himself and his country against any assailant.

THE CONVENT OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY, Belfast, was last week seized by bailiffs for debt.

A HAMBURG LETTER states that the first vessel with the Siamese flag—a white elephant on a red ground—ever seen there has recently entered that port. The ship formerly belonged to Bremen, and was purchased by the King of Siam.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WE all remember how Mr. Roupell took Lambeth by storm in 1857—how he bought up all the cabs, and, as rumour had it at the time, the voters also, ultimately beating Mr. Arthur Wilkinson by over 6000 votes, and the old Lambeth favourite, Mr. Williams, by 1790. Mr. Roupell had the reputation of being a millionaire; indeed, he seemed by the manner in which he threw about his money to possess an Aladdin's lamp; and there can be no doubt, we believe, that he was very rich. But whatever his wealth may have been it has in some marvellous manner come to an end, and Mr. Roupell has fallen into such a hopeless state of indebtedness that he is obliged to resign his seat and leave the country. A new writ for Lambeth is not, whilst I write, yet moved; I understand that there is some difficulty in the matter. Mr. Roupell, I am told, applied for the Chilterns, but has left England without signing the papers. There are many rumours afloat as to the manner in which the poor man's money has oozed away, but they are mere rumours. It certainly, however, was not his mode of living that brought him to grief. Mr. Roupell is a quiet, gentlemanly, intelligent man of good education, and whenever he addressed the House spoke calmly and intelligently, with great ease and fluency, and was always listened to with attention.

MR. FRANK DOUTON, the stoneware-manufacturer, who was a candidate for a time in 1859, aspires to be Mr. Roupell's successor, and there is a report that he is to be opposed by Mr. Goldsmith. That part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget which proposes to transmute the hop duties into a tax upon beer will pass with little or no question, as it has strong supporters on both sides of the House; indeed, it is a very capital change in every way, for, besides relieving the hop-growers from a most galling and oppressive impost, it will throw open the hop-growing business. Every farmer who has a nice warm corner on his farm well sheltered from the north and east winds will be able to devote it, if the soil be suitable, to hop-growing; and, further, by this change an army of officials will be dispensed with. I allude here specially, not to the permanent excise man, but to some two hundred "hoppers" temporarily employed in the picking season to stand by and see the hops weighed. These men had 30s. a week, and were appointed nominally by the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury, but really by those members of Parliament who represent places in the hop district. In short, these appointments were, first, bribes to the members; and, secondly, bribes to their

agents, who, in turn, were to be bribed to stand by and see the hops weighed. These men had 30s. a week, and were appointed nominally by the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury, but really by those members of Parliament who represent places in the hop district. In short, these appointments were, first, bribes to the members; and, secondly, bribes to their agents, who, in turn, were to be bribed to stand by and see the hops weighed. These men had 30s. a week, and were appointed nominally by the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury, but really by those members of Parliament who represent places in the hop district. In short, these appointments were, first, bribes to the members; and, secondly, bribes to their agents, who, in turn, were to be bribed to stand by and see the hops weighed. These men had 30s. a week, and were appointed nominally by the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury, but really by those members of Parliament who represent places in the hop district. 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constituents: Treasury bonbons, with which the Government whips stimulated sluggish supporters, and the members made doubtful voters "all right." Mr. Gladstone is not thought to be an ardent Parliamentary reformer; but, by abolishing hundreds of excise and customs officials, he has probably done more in the way of real Parliamentary reform than many a loud-tongued reformer ever contemplated.

The proposal to require every man who brews his own beer to take out a licence will, I hear, be steadily opposed, and, I think, properly; for if it be carried it will operate to the injury of a large number of small maltsters who supply private families, stop a vast deal of private brewing, and eventually make home-brewed beer a rare beverage. Besides, it seems to me that to bring the exciseman into private houses is a step entirely the wrong way. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will, I think, have to give up this part of his Budget.

We have heard a good deal lately about the Merrimac and Monitor, and now every one is intent upon certain impregnable ships which are to be built at the suggestion of Captain Coles. It is not generally known, however, that an engineer named William Bush took out a patent for an impregnable iron ship, with cupola, mounting heavy guns, so long ago as 1846, and that models of this ship were exhibited in the Library of the House of Commons. The time, however, had not come for such an invention to be appreciated, and though Mr. Bush's vessel attracted attention nothing came of it; but, now the time is come, ought not Mr. Bush to reap some reward for his ingenuity and foresight? This gentleman nearly twenty years ago built a lighthouse on the Goodwin Sands: but from some unexplained cause he was obliged—notwithstanding he had received the sanction of the Admiralty—by the Trinity Board to take it down. The cost of this erection, amounting to some £12,000, was borne by Mr. Bush. The shaft, however, was only removed, and the caisson still remains intact, and at low water may yet be seen. Three years ago Mr. Bush also drew plans for the erection of impregnable conical iron fortresses at the Nore, &c., which were explained in a pamphlet published by Mr. William John Hall.

"The Laggie and other Poems," which will shortly be published by Macmillan and Co., is a volume which cannot fail to cause considerable interest in the author, David Gray, whose story is a sad one. The public recognition of his singular promise, however, will come too late; for he died last autumn, in his twenty-third year. He was born of very humble parents at Kirtlington, in Scotland, and was educated at Glasgow University. At an early age he evinced the faculty of writing promising verses; and among his juvenile contributions to the *Glasgow Sentinel*, *Glasgow Citizen*, &c., there are some pieces evincing a real gift, and perhaps a future poet. In the spring of 1860 Gray ventured to London, with the view of following literature as a profession. His hopes were crushed at the outset. Exposure to cold and subsequent neglect brought on a severe attack of pleurisy; and, without a penny in his pocket, he lay incapacitated in his London lodgings. It was at this point that certain literary gentlemen of London began to interest themselves in his case. Above all praise was the kindness and sympathy of Mr. Monckton Milnes, but for whose aid Gray would have been in a much sorrier position. The rest of the story may be left blank. Enough to say that the poor lad gradually sank until he quietly and happily breathed his last. His last moments were employed in preparing for the press the volume which will shortly make its appearance. "The Laggie" is a long descriptive poem containing passages of singular grace and beauty, and its title is the name of a stream which runs by the poet's home at Merkland. The scenery around his home was regarded by him with deep, abiding affection, and most of his poems are local in title and character. More of both the man and his writings must be found in this book, which will contain a memoir by Mr. Milnes.

I believe I may announce to your readers that her Majesty's original wish of having a monolith erected as the Prince Consort memorial has undergone considerable modification, even if it be not entirely abandoned. I have this from a source which I have hitherto always found thoroughly reliable.

The arrival of "Mossos" in enormous numbers would be indication, were any wanted, of the approaching opening of the exhibition. Here he is, on every omnibus, asking his way in every street, in every variety of pinched hat and wild garb—French Mossos, apelike and chattering—German Mossos, stolid and cloudy—Italian Mossos, lively and vivacious, but with a tendency on every occasion to be political—all are here. And the Prince of Wales is to be kept out of harm's way, and not to be allowed to indulge in any dreams of fair women, and not to come back for the opening ceremony, which is to be performed by the great Duke, so famous for his courteous tongue, and Lord Derby, Palmerston, and Westbury, that much-loving trio.

The Artists' Benevolent Fund dinner, on Saturday week, was a great success—more guests and larger subscriptions than the fund has known before. Mr. Dickens's "speech of the evening"—five-and-twenty minutes long and seeming like five—was a gem of grace and eloquence.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed, assisted ably by Mr. John Parry, have started a new entertainment, called "A Family Legend," written by Mr. Tom Taylor. It differs from most of its class in possessing something of a plot, the legend being the story of a villainous ancestor, whose portrait hangs in the family halls, and who descends and haunts one of the guests. The scenery—Welsh mountain and lake—by Mr. Telbin, is most beautiful. Mrs. Reed sings very sweetly of course, and her husband and Mr. Parry act really well.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

SAYS Mr. Thackeray, announcing his abdication of the *Cornhill* throne, "To say, No! as often cost me a morning's peace and a day's work." It is pleasant to think that, in compiling the present number for publication, the eminent editor evidently said Yes to all; for there are two articles on one and the same subject, and one on a topic treated a few months back in another magazine. "The Brain and its Use" is a scientific and physiological article, illustrated by those nightmare-looking diagrams usually to be found in such subjects; whilst "First Beginnings" also treats of the brain, and shows more especially the first symptoms of brain-softening, paralysis, and insanity. This article, founded on Dr. Forbes Winslow's last work and other books, is of considerable interest. "On Growing Old" recently formed the theme of one of "A. K. H. B.'s" most charming essays in *Fraser*. The article on this subject in the *Cornhill* is very tame in comparison, lacking the sweet simplicity and strong faith which characterised the other effusion. Two very good descriptive papers are on "The Inner Life of an Hospital" and "Fire-damp and its Victims"; and there is a passable story called "A Fit of Jealousy." "Philip" is, of course, very clever; but the hero becomes more and more repulsive, and in the present number exhibits himself as the most overbearing and supercilious of eads. Mr. Millais has a very powerful drawing in illustration of a very sweet and melodious poem, "Irene."

Temple Bar sails steadily on with its two serial stories. Mr. Sala's mastery over the English of Dœs's time, always great, seems to improve with practice, and there is a rough vigour and an evidence of worldly knowledge in "Aurora Floyd" which render it one of the best novels of the day. There is a very interesting paper on Burke's recent Australian Explorations; a sharp, clever essay on the perils of unprotected women in the streets, called "Out Walking"; a ridiculous, intentionally absurd story, called "Formosa," a descriptive mining paper, "Breaking the Crust;" and some pretty verse.

Blackwood is so good that one almost begins to regret one's conviction, and concede that the habit of thinking and the art of writing have not quite died out. The place of honour is given in the magazine, as the place of honour should be given to him there at

least, to Pisistratus Caxton. The first essay on "The Superior Man" tells plain truths, which may be used to advantage not only by the typical superior man of whom Sir Edward particularly disapproves but by the meedoerities all the world over, the largest number being within six miles of Charing-cross. "The hands he shakes," says our essayist, "are the hands that help him to rise." "You would hear nothing of him while saints were lighting and martyrs burning." But when the crisis was over, and St. Paul's Cathedral was converted into the Grand Mosque, you would see him walking down the street on his way to the temple, arm-in-arm with the Prime Minister." The essay may, in fact, be considered as one upon "How to get on in the world," and may be read as a ready-reckoner by one class of people and as a sardonically-pleasant skit by another. The essay on "Shyness" is equally good. It is full of the most practical wisdom, quietly put; and, in some cases, wisdom that runs counter to accepted opinion. "Meit is not always modest," we read; "when a man has unmistakably done a something that is meritorious he must know it, and he cannot in his heart undervalue that something, otherwise he would never have strained all his energies to do it." After all the cant to which we have of late been treated about the absence of self-consciousness in great men, and the superiority of "objectivity" in intellect, it is refreshing to come across this honest avowal that a meritorious man knows, though he may not always obtrude, his merit better than any one else can possibly know it. What said Goethe? "Never accept from the public the praise which you have not already bestowed upon yourself." Of course the public does not like to see its approval, on which it sets so high a value, somewhat forestalled—but that is the public's affair. And how sound is the following remark:—"The emulation of a genius is seldom with his contemporaries—but that is, inwardly in his mind—though outwardly, in his acts, it would seem so. The competitors with whom our secret ambition seeks to vie are the dead." Better these quiet truths, simply stated, than a thousand strange stories strungily told.

A "Box of Books," though a review of some recent works, is as agreeable reading as could be any independent essay. The writer, whilst bestowing full meed of praise upon Mr. Max Müller grapples with some of his positions—not very wisely, on the whole, we think; for where he supposes the great philologist to be in error he scarcely defends the matter, but doubles the difficulty by introducing questionable hypotheses of his own. Would not Mr. Herbert Spencer's exposition of evolution—most especially that chapter which treats of the instability of the homogeneous—correct the misinterpretations of both? The suggestion of the word *Etymogony* seems to us so good that we hope it will be generally adopted. At the close of the "Box of Books" comes a notice of Mrs. Barrett Browning—appreciative as it should, sad as it must be. "Her place," it is said, "among the immortals is secure; her rank among them will be settled hereafter." There is a generous but just article upon the veteran writer, greatest of authors, Charles Lever. The hint given to him to "vary his point of view" is one that might be given to almost every English writer who is the wrong side of fifty. The magazine closes with an article on the "American Union," taking for text Mr. Spence's book, which seems to be generally allowed to be the authority on the subject.

The first number of the *Exchange*, a monthly review of commerce, manufacturers, and general politics, commences, as most reviews commence, well. We will hope that it will maintain its reputation longer and more successfully than so many others which have quite "misused the promise of their spring." "Cotton," "Collieries," "Exchanges" such are the leading topics; concluded with a "Monetary and Commercial Review of the Month." The *Exchange* seems to be a sort of monthly *Economist*, and no doubt satisfies a want. Very appropriate is a "Sketch of Mexican History to 1860," of which we have but an instalment.

If *London Society* is to live, it will be by its illustrations, for the letterpress is of the poorest Bentley-and-water-like order. Of the pictures the best this month is Mr. G. Thomas's "Fancy Fair;" the worst, Mr. Lawless's "Beauty's Toilette," representing a stout negress before a looking-glass. The proprietors are weak enough to allow Miss Florence Claxton to perpetrate her lunacies in their magazine, and one adorns the current number. Mr. A. W. Cooper's "Dripping," a river and boat sketch, is very pretty.

The *Medical Critic and Psychological Journal* for the present quarter contains, in addition to the usual articles on technical subjects, several which the general reader will take considerable interest in. Among the latter may be mentioned "Dream Thought and Dream Life," and "Slow and Secret Poisoning." The *Popular Science Review* sustains the promise of its first number.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE influenza, which has been generally prevalent, has not spared the theatrical profession. Miss Herbert has suffered from it severely, and will not be able to resume her work until next week. Meanwhile, her part in "Friends and Foes," at the St. James's, has been played by Miss Kate Terry, a young lady who has always shown great promise, but who, by her performance of this character, has advanced to the first rank of her profession. M. Fechter has also suffered from influenza, and has been compelled to relinquish acting during the week.

"The Life of an Actress" having, justly enough, been a failure, the *Adelphi* bill will be changed at Easter. "Dot" (Mr. Boucicault's version of "The Cricket on the Hearth") and "The Vampire," played at the Princess' while Mr. Kean was manager being the novelties. Why does not Mr. Webster play in his own theatre? He is a better actor than any in his company, and people are beginning to cry "Toujours perdris!" Mrs. Williams (Miss Louise Keeley) joins the *Adelphi* company.

The "new and original romantic drama" advertised at the foot of the *Princess*' playbills will probably be produced on Saturday, the 19th inst. It is called "The Golden Daggers," and has been written conjointly by Messrs. Fechter and Edmund Yates. The action of the play was originally taken from M. Paul Féval's novel "Les Couteaux d'Or," but, in working it out dramatically, it was found necessary to depart greatly from M. Féval's idea, and now there are but very few points of resemblance between the novel and the play.

"The Messiah" will be performed on Monday next (Passion Week) by the National Choral Society, at Exeter Hall. The chorus of the society will number six hundred voices. The principal vocalists will be Madame Florence Lupton, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Swift, and Mr. Sautley; conductor, Mr. G. W. Martin.

THE LOUNGER AT THE STUDIOS.

TUESDAY was "sitting-in day" at the Royal Academy, and for the three previous days the studios of the best-known artists were thronged with curious friends. So far as one can at present judge, this season's exhibition will be above the average, many of our painters seeming to have felt that their works will this year be submitted to a stronger test than usual, and that it has behaved them to keep up national as well as individual honour. Some great names will nevertheless be missed from the catalogues, and among those conspicuous for their absence will be found Mr. Frith, whose "Life at a Railway Station," shortly to be exhibited by itself at a gallery in the Haymarket, has absorbed his energies, and prevented him from contributing to the general show in Trafalgar-square. Mr. E. M. Ward is also among the delinquents, sowing nothing but a very highly-finished water-colour drawing; but the family name is to be represented by Mrs. Ward, whose picture, "Henrietta Maria Receiving the Intelligence of the Execution of her Husband, Charles I.," is by far the best as well as the most important picture he has painted. Although Sir Edwin Landseer has been unable to bend his great mind to the designing of the lions for the base of the Nelson Column, he has, I believe, sufficiently recovered from the effects of a badly-fitting coat

(vide law reports) to enable him to paint a picture for the Academy. That most pleasant of genial veterans, Mr. Mulready, is also to the fore; and Mr. Maclise Mr. Creswick, Mr. E. W. Cooke, Mr. Sidney Cooper, Mr. Dyce, and Mr. Dobson are also prepared to exhibit. So is Mr. Hook, but his pictures have not been on previous view this year owing to the chaotic state of Mr. T. O'Barlow's scarcely-finished new studio. Mr. Egg, all lovers of art will be sorry to hear, is away through ill health from England, and will not send.

Mr. Faed, whose charming picture, "From Dawn to Sunset," bore away the honours last year, sends a work less important, so far as size is concerned, but full of beauty. An old soldier who fought at the battle of Assas and at other of the Great Captain's victories, worn out and blind, lies back in his chair, listening to his pretty grandchild, who is reading to him from a newspaper the account of the Indian warfare of '57. There is a yet faint peep in the old war-horse, though his "golden locks Time hath silver-turned," and age and poverty have subdued the ancient fire. The expression of his face is most touching, softened, and subdued, without the least *ad captandum* sentimentality, and the girl's face and figure are charmingly rendered.

Mr. Millais is prodigal with his contributions. First and foremost, we have "The Ransom," the picture intended for last year's exhibition, but not finished in sufficient time. The period selected is for the time of the Wars of the Roses, when it was customary for each party to seize, if possible, upon children of their enemies, who, though not badly treated, were detained as hostages until either ransomed or won back by the sword. A fine, handsome, stalwart knight has come to ransom his children—two little girls, one of whom has already buried herself in her father's arms, while the other looks up wistfully into his face. He has given over his jewels, and behind him stands a young man with a well-filled purse, should more be yet required. The composition, tone, and colour of the picture are charming, and there is wonderful expression in the face of an avaricious recipient of the money, full of coarse, sensual greed. Another picture, which will probably be the most generally popular of this artist's contributions, is called "The Interpreter Letter," and has its great charm in the admirable manner in which it represents two types of modern English life—a thorough old English gentleman and a highbred girl. The scene is breakfast-room, in a country house, finished in most perfect detail; papa has the postbag in his hand; but from it Clara has already taken one particular letter which she holds behind her back, and declines to place in papa's outstretched hand. The feeling here is excellent: in the treatment of such modern scenes Mr. Millais has but one rival, and he is not an oil-painter—Mr. John Leech. A third picture of Mr. Millais's is a pictorial representation of the parable of "the woman who had lost a piece of money, and swept diligently until she found it," remarkable for the boldness of the painting, and for the introduction of a great contrast between lamp and moon light effect.

Mr. O'Neill has left those episodes of modern life by the d-lineation of which he first attained his fame, and has gone back to history for his present subject. But he will be no loser by the change. His picture of "Mary Stuart Leaving France" is one of the most graceful paintings recently completed. The figures are admirably grouped, the mournful expression of the Queen is excellently rendered, and the manipulation of some dove-coloured silk dresses well, from its neat handling, astonish those hitherto accustomed to Mr. O'Neill's somewhat slapdash painting.

Mr. Elmore takes as his subject the grand incident in the life of Joseph Heitmann, the inventor of the combing-machine, when, after years of labour, he at length hit upon his great idea from seeing his daughter combing her hair. The pretty girl at the glass, the thoroughly Al-Asian character of Heitmann's face, and the quaint old woman in the background, are capital.

Mr. Ansdell has one very large picture, as large as his "Hunted Slaves" of last year, which he calls "Excelsior" (why?), and which represents the finding of a dead body in the snow by two monks and two glorious St. Bernard dogs. It is needless to say that the dogs are splendidly painted; but the public will, I imagine, be much struck by the general excellences of the picture.

Mr. Leighton sends several pictures of most striking merit. It will be a disgrace to the Academy in general if his works be not better hung than they were last year. One of his subjects is an incident in the life of Michael Angelo, where the great maestro is seen carefully tending an old servant who is apparently at the point of death. Another, the "Music of the Shell," shows a very lovely but somewhat sensuous female head listening to a seashell. A third represents an old Eastern king, well painted in a strong, lurid light, uncrowning himself in homage to the star rising in the east.

Mr. A. Solomon will add greatly to his reputation by his new picture representing the return of a supposed dead son to the bosom of his family, and founded on an incident in Madame de Girardin's play "La Joie fait Peur." In delicate treatment and dexterous handling this picture far excels Mr. Solomon's former efforts. Miss Solomon has made an enormous step in advance with a picture of "Fugitive Royalists," in which the generosity of maternal instinct is admirably developed. Mr. Simeon Solomon has also two of his usual pictures from Scripture subjects, and a series of really wonderful drawings representing many interesting Jewish ceremonies.

Mr. Horsley sends three highly-finished pictures, the best of all being "The Interior of Haddon Hall," with figures playing chess, being a perfect gem as regards the accuracy of its detail, the warmth of its colour, and the cleverness of its perspective.

Mr. Marcus Stone has a cleverly-conceived and well-executed picture representing an incident in the early life of the great French painter Groux.

Mr. Barwell takes the vicinity of a coal-mine after an accident for a subject, and treats it with delicacy of feeling and vigorous handling.

Mr. Fenn has a very charming seaboard landscape, painted at Seaford, Sussex.

The foregoing remarks are, of course, merely explanatory of the works about to be exhibited by some of our most popular artists. Detailed criticism is reserved until the opening of the Academy.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The directors, having in view the anticipated great influx of visitors during the next six months, have decided upon issuing only one class of season tickets—viz., at one guinea each; a liberality which will doubtless be attended by its full reward. These tickets will be shortly ready for issue. The first great day of the season will be on Good Friday, when Sims Reeves, Madame Rudolphi, and other vocalists, will appear in a concert of sacred music. To afford full opportunity for visitors arriving and departing, the doors of the Palace will be open at nine o'clock, and the Palace be lighted up in the evening. As on Good Friday last year 50,912 persons visited the Palace, when Sims Reeves also appeared, a great day may be anticipated. On Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Blondin—who is engaged by the Lord Mayor for a juvenile entertainment in the Egyptian Hall on the following evening—will go through a series of his high-rope and low-rope performances. For the latter purpose, the handsome stage used for the Christmas festivities will be made available. Blondin, who is found down by engagement to appear nowhere else in London than at the Crystal Palace, will give a few performances during the exhibition season, and thus strangers to the metropolis will have the opportunity, witnessing his contortions.

NEW SILVER-MINES IN CHILI.—Advice from Chili mention a statement which had become prevalent of the discovery of an enormous quantity of silver at a place about a hundred leagues from Copiapo, in the great desert of Atacama. The assertions with regard to its abundance even on the surface of the soil are most extraordinary; and a number of people had started for the spot, many of whom, with their horses, had perished on the journey from want of food and water. Some who had set out had turned back from dread and exhaustion; but it was expected that more positive statements would shortly be received, when, supposing them to confirm the expectations excited, an organized system of transit would probably be attempted.

OAKHAM HALL, RUTLANDSHIRE.

THE recent revival of an old custom in connection with Oakham Hall, Rutlandshire, having attracted a considerable amount of attention to this ancient structure, the accompanying Engravings will not be without interest to our readers. The earliest record we possess regarding Oakham is a grant of the demesne by Edward the Confessor to his wife, with reversion at her death to the Monastery of St. Peter at Westminster; but it would seem that after the Conquest William I. took the hall into his own hands, and that it remained an appanage of the Crown for some time. A Ferrars crossed the sea with the Conqueror, and upon his descendant Henry II. bestowed the manor of Oakham. Robert Ferrars was settled in Derbyshire, and in the third of Stephen (1137) was created the first Earl. His son Walchelin de Ferrars held in the 12th Henry II. (1161) the barony of Oakham by tenure of the service of a knight's fee and a half. It is to him the erection of the hall still existing has been attributed, and upon evidence (says the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne) which there seems no reasonable ground for disputing. The style of architecture alone affords the strongest presumption that the building was erected towards the close of the twelfth century—from 1180 to 1190. Matthew Paris says that Walchelin de Ferrars was at the siege of Acre in the Holy Land with the English King in the third year of his reign (1191). In 1201 he died, and was succeeded by his son Hugh, who, dying (1204) without issue, Isabella, his only sister, wife of Roger Lord Mortimer, became his heir, and thus ended the connection of the Ferrars family with the town of Oakham.

The architectural character of the hall (says the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne) is of that unmixed nature that it will require only little description. It is in all respects conformable to what is considered the most interesting of the various styles, as it belongs to the period when the plain and massive Norman was gradually merging into Early English. The features of this style partake of the peculiarities of both. The example before us is what may be termed pure Transitional. This is particularly observable in the pointed lights, which are placed within segmental arches, with dog-tooth ornaments in their jambs; as well as in the comparative massive-ness of the buttresses, and the larger size of the stone ashlar where they are used for walling at the top of the building. These features, as well as the flowing and enriched form of the capitals, the square abacus with the angles slightly canted, entirely assimilate with the capitals of the choir on the south side of Canterbury Cathedral. Closer resemblance in foliage it would be difficult to adduce. They are, moreover, analogous to capitals in the Cathedrals of Soissons and Oxford. The chancel arch of Edithweston, in the immediate neighbourhood, helps to connect the local character with these distinguishing marks of the Transitional style—a style which may be easily discerned in the interior of the hall and in the pointed windows without. The stone used for dressing is a fine grained shelly oolite from Chipsham, not so coarse as the Barnack stone, nor so delicate as the Ketton; harder than the latter and more readily worked than the former. Witness, in proof, the exquisitely-sculptured heads under the brackets, which form responds to the arches at each end and on both sides of the hall. The wall of inclosure (*cingulum*) is built of a coarse ferruginous upper member of the oolite, with mortar made without

much lime. The hall is divided by three shafts on each side into four bays, like that formerly existing at Barnack—proportionately, as Neeham, a writer of the twelfth century, says, was the rule; it is smaller, though earlier, than the hall at Winchester, but in its various sculptures and points of detail infinitely more beautiful; nothing, in fact, exceeds the spirit and the gracefulness of the different heads. Those of Henry II. and his wife, Margaret of Guenue, opposite the former door of entrance, as placed in the most prominent part, are peculiarly deserving attention. After this it need scarcely be said that the present position of the door is not the original one. When Buck published his view, in 1720, it was at the east end, answering partially to that at Winchester, and entirely to that in the refectory at Dover. The ancient roof was probably semicircular, like that existing still in the Bishop's Palace at Hereford. The oldest portions of the present one are two red beams put up by Villiers Duke of Buckingham, who also built the gateway. Oakham, the most perfect specimen of domestic architecture of the twelfth century which probably exists in any country, is also one of those monuments whose interest can never become evanescent. It is one which tells the early history not merely of the little county of Rutland, but it carries us back to the habits and usages of our forefathers—to a remote period, when there are but scanty materials from which a knowledge of them may be gathered and thence handed down for the instruction of posterity.

The peculiar custom existing in this place of compelling every Peer of Parliament the first time he passes through the town to give a horseshoe "to be nailed upon the castle gate," which if he refuses the bailiff of the manor has power to arrest him in his progress and take one from his horse's foot, is of ancient standing, since it is mentioned by Camden as existing in his time; but the origin of the

practice is involved in some obscurity. It is supposed to have come as a liberty from the Ferrars, who were early lords of the demesne. This explanation, however, is somewhat vague and conjectural; but inquiries found in the rolls of the hundred in which Oakham is situated, held in the third and fourth years of Edward I. it seems that something analogous was then in existence. The jurors who sat on these inquiries found that the "bailliffs of Oakham, in the reign of Henry III. and Edward I., took toll of carriages and horses bought and sold, and all other merchandise, at Oakham, and they distrained of their property who are not principal merchants nor sureties: they know not by what warrant." It appears, too, that "Peter de Nevill took ten marks unjustly from the men of Oakham and Langham, by virtue of his office of bailiff, that they should not have their dogs lawed." The transition to a commutation of a shire for a money payment, or the reverse, is easy to be accounted for. From these inquiries the origin of the custom of demanding a horseshoe at Oakham may be guessed, at least, an insight is gathered into the practice, which has at various periods been countenanced by English Monarchs and the highest judicial functionaries.

But, whatever may have been the origin of the practice, it is certain that it has been complied with by many illustrious personages. Among these may be mentioned her Majesty Queen Victoria in 1833 the Duchess of Kent in the same year, the Duke of Cambridge in 1843, the late King of Hanover (then Duke of Cumberland) in 1808, the Prince Regent (George IV.) in 1814, the Duke of York in 1778, the Duke of Wellington in 1838, Lord Chief Justice Mansfield in 1763, Lord Denman in 1833, Lord Lyndhurst in 1830, Lord Campbell in 1858, and a host of other noblemen. A curious history is connected with one horseshoe which was presented by Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, and is known as the "golden shoe," from being gilt. This shoe was stolen about the year 1818, the thief probably thinking that it was made of the precious metal, and was subsequently returned—by whom has never been known. The shoe was much valued, having been taken off his Lordship's favorite horse, Clinker. It arrived at Oakham, by rail, on the 8th of March, 1858, the same day on which Lord Campbell's shoe was placed in the hall. The following poetic effusion accompanied the long-absent shoe, the parcel containing which was addressed to "The Bailiff, or other Chief Officer, Oakham," and inclosed also a slip of paper with the following request:—"Please to oblige and acknowledge my return, at an early opportunity, in a brief advertisement 'Clinker is back,' in the *Standard* London newspaper" :—

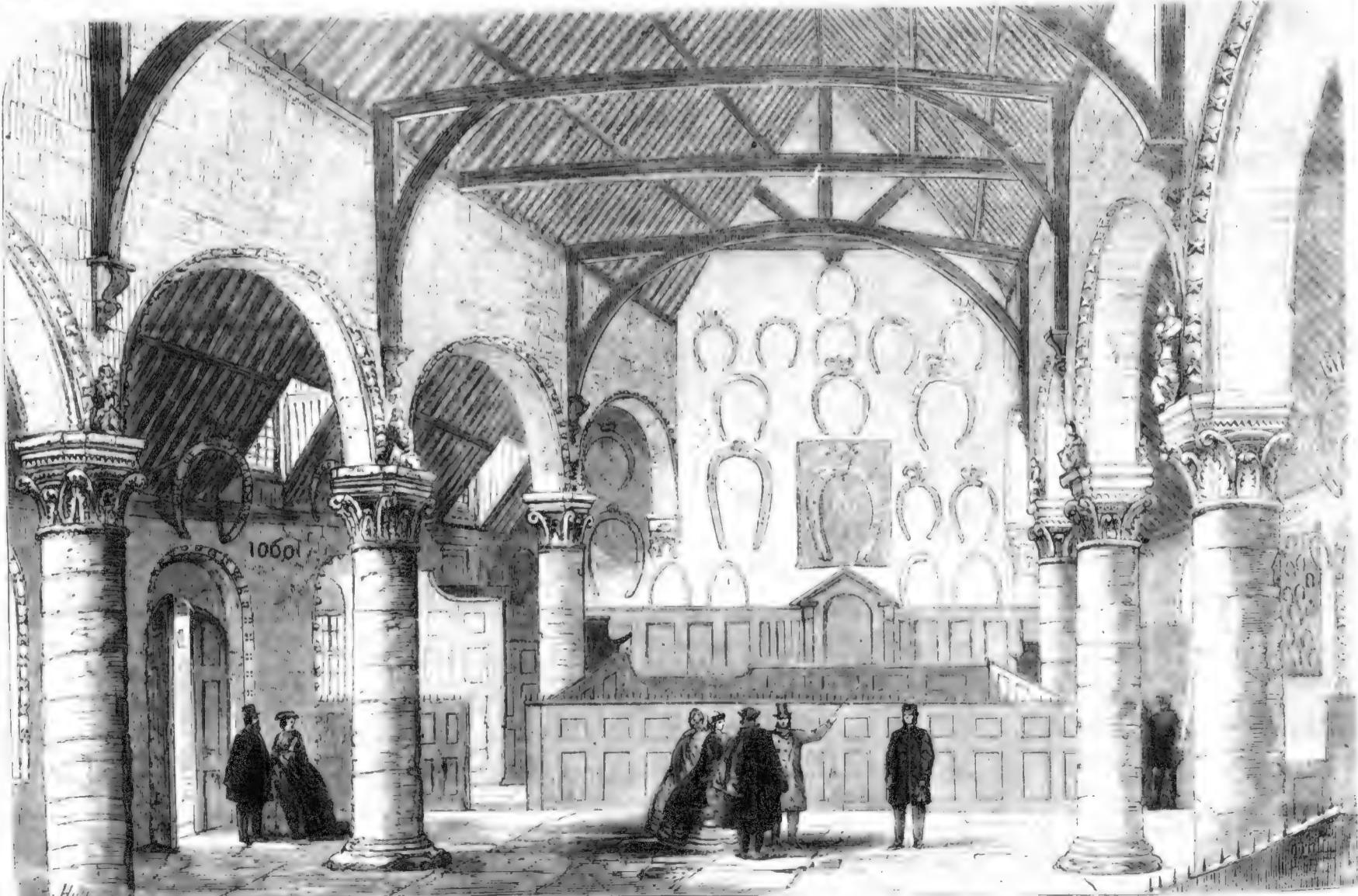
Go, golden shoe, from this my dwelling go;
I send thee back to Oakham. Go thy way,
And if, as I believe, affections grow
In lengthened absence, then will Oakham say:

Welcome, dear truant! welcome back with joy,
Softly each bright-eyed damsel will exclaim;
Welcome! will shout each grown-up man and boy;
Welcome! will lisp each venerable dame.

Thou'rt welcome back; yet fair would we unrival,
If we but could, thy intermediate history.
Where hast thou been? Where hast thou chanced to travel?
Since you forsook us in such sudden mystery?



OAKHAM HALL, RUTLANDSHIRE.



INTERIOR OF OAKHAM HALL.

APRIL 12, 1862.

We must not part again : fearful and jealous
Of future separation, we will fix
Thy gilded form amongst thy glittering fellows
Finer than ever through the wood and bricks.

There to remain while Oakham lasts, I trust,
"Vexata questio," to each sage old thinker,
Who'll wonder and will wonder, yet he must
But be as wise as ever about CLINKER!

We believe the last Peer who was "shoed" at Oakham was Lord Talbot de Malahide, who visited the town in the autumn of last year, in company with about fifty members of the Archaeological Society, among whom was Miss Agnes Strickland and other celebrities.

One of the notabilities of Oakham was the "Queen's dwarf," Jeffrey Hudson, who played a prominent part in the history of Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I., and in the troubles of that Monarch's reign. He was the son of one John Hudson, a person of a very mean condition, but of a lusty stature, as were all his other children. Jeffrey was born in 1619, and when above seven years old, and only eighteen inches in height, he was taken into the family of the Duke of Buckingham, at Burleigh-on-the-Hill, as a rarity of nature; and, the Court being there about that time in progress, he was served up at table in a cold pie. After the marriage of Charles I. with the Princess Henrietta Maria of France he was presented to the Queen and became her dwarf; and it must have been about that time that the King's great porter, during a masque at Whitehall, pulled him out of his pocket to the great surprise of the company. Soon after he was sent to France to bring over the Queen's midwife, but on his passage was captured by a French pirate, and carried prisoner to Dunkirk. Being liberated by the French Court, he returned to England, and during the civil wars was a Captain of horse, but accompanied his Royal mistress on her return to her native country, where he challenged a Mr. Crofts, brother to Lord Crofts, who came armed to the ground only with a squirt, which so enraged the little hero that he insisted on fighting with pistols on horseback, and actually shot his antagonist. For this he was expelled the Court; but after the Restoration he returned to England, and, it has been said, was made Captain of a ship of war. This, however, is rather unlikely; yet it is a fact that he went to sea, and was taken by a Turkish pirate, who carried him into Barbary, where he was sold as a slave, and continued in that state for many years. He was at length redeemed, and, returning to England, was supported by a pension from the Buckingham family and some other benefactions. During the troublesome times of 1678 he was suspected; and, being known to be a Roman Catholic, he was arrested in the metropolis, and confined for some time in the Gatehouse at Westminster; and, though soon released, died shortly



PORTRAIT OF G. J. CATO, THE WINNER OF THE RIFLE GIVEN BY PRINCE ALFRED TO BE SHOT FOR IN NATAL.

afterwards. It is said that he never grew between his seventh and thirteenth years, but after thirty shot up to 3ft 9in.; which rapid increase he himself attributed to the frequent beatings he had received whilst in slavery.

COMPETITION FOR THE PRINCE ALFRED RIFLE IN NATAL.

DURING the visit of Prince Alfred to the Cape of Good Hope, in 1860, he received a right Royal welcome from the colonists everywhere, and, in acknowledgment of the good feeling shown to him, his Royal Highness presented several rifles to be competed for by the residents of the colony. One of these fell to the share of the Natal district, and the contest for its possession caused an immense amount of excitement. The country being sparsely populated, and the means of travelling imperfect, it was next to impossible that all who wished to compete for the rifle—which is a beautiful Whitworth, with case and fittings complete—could do so at one place. It was therefore arranged that the various counties should have local primary competitions, and that three of the best shots from each should be sent up to the final trial of skill at Pietermaritzburg. This was accordingly done, and from the nine counties into which the Natal colony is divided there were sent up to take part in the last contest twenty-seven individuals—the highest score in the local competition having been seventeen and the lowest seven. There was no restriction as to who should be entitled to compete—every person resident in the colony who chose to try being free to take part in the struggle.

The 23rd of January last was the day appointed for the final and deciding contest at Pietermaritzburg, and nine o'clock a.m. was the hour named for commencing business. At that hour, accordingly, citizens, soldiers, and Kaffirs—some on foot, some on horseback, and others in vehicles—began wending their way to the appointed ground. Thither, in fact, went the entire town—young and old, high and low, strong and feeble. Thither went his Excellency the Governor—thither went the officials—thither went the governed and the governors. There were three ranges to be shot at—100, 200, and 300 yards, three shots being allowed to the several competitors at each range: in other respects the rules observed were similar to those in use at home. The firing began about ten o'clock, and it soon became apparent that the contest would lie between three out of the twenty-seven competitors. These three were Colour-Sergeant Gleddon, of her Majesty's 85th Regiment, and Messrs. George C. Cato and George J. Cato, father and son, colonists, of D'Urban county. This circumstance made the struggle intensely exciting, as soldiers and civilians were equally anxious that their respective champion should carry off the honours of the day. The result of the firing at the 100-yard range gave 7 each for Gleddon and Cato senior, and 8 to Cato junior. At the 200 yards Gleddon made his number up to 13; Cato, sen., made his 12; and Cato, jun., also 12. At the 300 yards Cato sen., was disposed of at 16 points; Gleddon stood



DON QUIXOTE MEETING DULCINEA DEL TOBOSO.—(FROM A PICTURE BY BAUMGART ER. OF MUNICH.)

at 17 when his last shot was fired; and Cato, jun., on going in for his last turn, numbered only 14. The hopes of the military were high, and the depression of the colonists great. The chances in Cato's favour were small. Fortune, however, favoured him. He got a bull's-eye, scored 3, and was thus on a "tie" with his military antagonist. The two rivals proceeded to shoot off this tie by firing one round respectively at each of the three ranges. At the 100 yards each competitor made 2 points; at 200 yards Gleddon made 2 and Cato, by a bull's-eye, scored 3; at 300 yards, 1 point was made by each competitor—Cato thus winning by 1. An accidental explosion of Cato's rifle gave rise to some dispute, but it was ultimately ruled to be "no shot." The colony thus retains the much coveted prize, and great is the satisfaction felt amongst the settlers in consequence. The firing, on the whole, was considered very good.

"DO QU XOTE MEETING DULCINEA DEL TOBOSO."

With what different impressions we read "Don Quixote" after our first eager skimming of its pages as schoolboys, looking only at its grotesque points and laughing at the adventures of the crazy gentleman as so many comic incidents! Mr. Kingsley's remark, that "Don Quixote" is one of the saddest books ever written comes home with marvellous force to many a thoughtful man who turns over the pages and wonders how he could ever have found it in his heart to laugh at the Knight of La Mancha. His mad craze had in it, after all, elements so much more noble than ever entered into the comfortable self-sufficiency of his sane, garlic-eating, oily-complexioned friend, that it is evident he was a man as much above his companions as he was behind his age; and his very absurdities and insane delusions were but the indefinite expressions of a nature which could never be allied to the sordid accessories of mere commonplace realists. His windmills should by right have been giants; his flock of sheep the armies of Alifanfaron and Pentapolin; his mistress Dulcinea really the peerless beauty of Toboso, if we would judge him rightly. Had these been so, the knight of the ruddy countenance would have been a mighty hero; as it is, the book is a melancholy one containing, perhaps, some shadowy allegory of the triumph of commonplace and the hopelessness of individual effort against its corroding influences.

There is, perhaps, no greater evidence of the consummate art with which Cervantes wrought out the entire story than the very small part which Dulcinea del Toboso takes in the whole action of the drama. Indeed, she appears not once throughout the history, and the Knight himself remembers the peasant girl only as an object of early admiration, so that she dwells in his disordered fancy apart from the real meanness of her station, and is more thoroughly idealised than any of his more obvious illusions.

True to this phase of imagination, the author represents him as being unable to recognise his beau-ideal Dulcinea in the common country wench whom Sancho Panza represents as the lady attended by her two companions coming to pay him a visit; and the Squire who has learned the symptoms of his master's madness, is compelled to account for her rustic appearance by telling him that she is under the influence of enchantment.

It will be remembered that there is no such difficulty in the other illusions. The knavish inn-keeper is the constable of the castle in spite of his dress and appearance, while the serving-maids are the ladies of his household; but the idealisation of his mistress, who remains unseen, is too complete to admit of his being mistaken in attributing her imaginary excellences to another who resembles her real self.

Baumgarten's picture represents the scene where the Knight and Sancho Panza come forward to meet the three peasant girls from Toboso, the first of whom Don Quixote has been persuaded is the peerless Dulcinea. The vigorous animal life displayed in the figures of the three women and of Sancho Panza contrasts admirably with the strange, gaunt aspect of the Knight, in whose face a lingering shade of doubt may almost be detected.

The handling of the accessories in this picture are remarkable for the truthful character which they impart to the whole work, and the execution is so admirable that the artist may almost be said to have produced another of those treasures for which Munich is already so famous.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

The season has begun well at the Royal Italian Opera, with "Guillaume Tell," which was represented last Tuesday, the opening night, in a style worthy of our chief operatic theatre, and more than worthy of the preliminary pulls issued by it. No theatre in Europe could have given a more efficient performance of Rossini's masterpiece, which, strange to say, was almost unknown in England—at least to the general public—until it was produced, last year, at Covent Garden. Under the Lumley dispensation at Her Majesty's Theatre, we believe (and hope), it was never played at all; for the popular impresario who omitted the part of Isabella in "Robert le Diable" would certainly not have hesitated to cut out the part of Arnold or William Tell in Rossini's great work. When it was produced for the first time (many years ago) at the Royal Italian Opera it appears, from some madness or stupidity on the part of the public, not to have obtained any remarkable success; but last season the audience proved itself as intelligent, in its way, as the performers, and now "Guillaume Tell" has evidently become one of the recognised "attractions" of our great lyrical theatre. Not only was the house crowded last Tuesday in every part, but every one seemed to wait to hear the opera even to the end. The entire work, to be sure, is not performed at the Royal Italian Opera; nor is "Guillaume Tell" played in its original form anywhere—not even at Paris, where it was originally produced; nor at Berlin, where the critics fly into ecstasies of rage if any German production, however dull, be shorn of its natural proportions, but where they at the same time tolerate the reduction of Rossini's incomparable opera to three acts, and the excision of such parts as the rather important scene for the tenor which includes "Asile héritaire" and "Suivez moi." However, the Covent Garden version contains as much of the music of "William Tell" as can be heard anywhere else, and there is no theatre just now where it is executed to greater perfection.

Signor Tamlerlik, fresh from St. Petersburg (where "William Tell" is played nearly as well, in a musical point of view, as at the Royal Italian Opera, and rather better in regard to the ballet), appears again as Arnold, which has naturally become one of his favourite characters, and which certainly finds in him a most worthy representative. Whatever may be the deserts of Signor Tamlerlik's singing, it is certain that no vocalist sings more dramatically, and, if his voice frequently seems to tremble with passion, it is in the most passionate portions of his music that this very excusable peculiarity (under the circumstances) is chiefly noticeable. He possesses intelligence, energy, something like histrionic genius, an admirable method of singing, and has a voice still, which, for a tenor of education and experience, is something nowadays. The important question to ask about Signor Tamlerlik in connection with "William Tell" is, whether he is not decidedly the best Arnold who could be found? About that there can be no doubt. Moreover, his performance—apart from comparison with any absolute and imaginary standard—is of the highest merit, so much so that we regret very much our inability to share the opinion of most of our contemporaries, who regard it as perfect. The reception of the great dramatic tenor on Tuesday evening was of the most enthusiastic kind, and the applause was renewed after the duet with Tell ("Où va-tu," or "Dove vai"), the duet with Mathilde, the trio, and, above all, at the conclusion of the celebrated "Suivez moi," in the tenor's grand scena.

The only fault with which any one can charge Mr. Faure is that he is a Frenchman—that is to say, that he has a French voice, a French style of singing, and French gestures. He is, nevertheless,

one of the best William Tells ever seen or heard, and decidedly the best who has ever appeared on the Italian stage in England. Arnold, as every one knows, is the most prominent and popular personage in the opera, by reason of his being a tenor, and, consequently, in love and also on account of the solo performances allotted to him. Indeed, on one notorious occasion, when Daprez was in England and appeared for the first time in this country in his most celebrated character, the part of William Tell was (musically speaking) quite omitted—not that Mr. Lumley was the manager of the theatre, but because the principal baritone of the company happened to be intoxicated. William Tell, according to the published accounts of Daprez's performance, went tolerably well without any William Tell at all, or at least without any William Tell sufficiently sober to sing the music, which is astonishing, if true, but which would have been simply impossible had the Arnold of the evening been inebriated.

Of course, William Tell is of enormous and primary importance in the work, inasmuch as without him much of the best music falls to pieces, or, at least, is as incomplete as salmon was once supposed to be without sauce, and as salmon sauce certainly will be to the end of time without salmon. M. Faure sings all his music in the most artistic style, and in the great dramatic situations of the piece displays very high qualities as an actor.

The female interest is very weak in "William Tell," which is a misfortune, in so far that, as a rule, no opera in which the heroine does not play an all-important part takes any permanent hold on the sympathies of the great body of the public. Whenever Mathilde opens her mouth, however the music she has to sing is charming and Madame Miolan-Carvalho sings all of it most charmingly.

As to the orchestra and chorus, we can only repeat the praise which was universally accorded to their efficiency last year, when "William Tell" was first produced with the present admirable cast.

The opera of the opening night was performed, for the second time this season, on Thursday, and it is to be played again this evening. On Tuesday next the "Trovatore" will be given, when Mr. Santley, our excellent, and in some respects unrivalled, English baritone, will make his first appearance at the Royal Italian Opera in the part of the Count di Luna.

Her Majesty's Theatre opens on the 26th—with what opera is not yet stated.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

On Sunday last the building was visited by a large and distinguished party of visitors, amongst whom were nearly all the Cabinet Ministers. They were shown over the exhibition by Earl Granville and were much struck with the effect of the picture-galleries. The hanging in the British gallery being nearly completed, they had such a view of the English school of oil and water colour painting as no Cabinet Minister ever enjoyed before. The Premier paid a visit to the building on Tuesday. It appears to be generally felt that Mr. Sidney Cooper's picture of "The Battle of Waterloo" should not be exhibited out of respect to our French guests, and its removal we believe, has been determined upon.

The various noblemen and gentlemen who own valuable paintings are daily becoming more favourable to this exhibition; and, though the commissioners experienced some little difficulty at first in getting offers of good works, they could now fill their walls twice over with notable pictures.

The foreign gallery was in too backward a state for the Ministers to see anything but the few Swiss paintings that are already hung the great works of the French and German schools—the two leading schools of Europe—being hidden in packing-cases. A good story is told of one French painting, "The Bishop of Liège," by Eugène Delacroix. It was packed up three months ago in a stout case and sent to the railway-station, but, instead of the regulation address to her Majesty's Commissioners, the sender had put outside the name of the picture. Railway officials are not more intelligent than nine-tenths of the human race, and therefore the picture was naturally forwarded to the present Bishop of Liège. The Bishop had no "advice" of the present (to use a commercial term), but he liked the picture very much, and after it had hung in his dining-room three weeks or a month he liked it still more. He believed that it was a gift from some faithful son of the Church, who desired not to be known by name—a peculiarity of many religious benefactors. In due time the most prosaic business-like inquiries were made after the missing picture, and it was traced to the house of its delighted possessor. The dream about an anonymous church benefactor was rudely broken (not without some little difficulty), the masterpiece was torn from the snug room and repacked, and care was taken on this second journey to deliver it safely at South Kensington.

The remark that every day makes a change at the exhibition is not very original, but it is very true. Four or five thousand labourers actively employed from morning to night succeed in getting through a vast amount of work; and as the division of labour has now commenced in right earnest, and every exhibitor seems to be living for nothing else but to make a good show at the great gathering, the prospect which the commissioners and the public have before them is very encouraging. The tickets are going off well, and notwithstanding some dissatisfaction at the purely commercial character of the opening programme, there can be no doubt that the exhibition will star with a satisfactory ceremonial. If the course on the 1st of May should be only a congress in which artists, manufacturers, and merchants hold the chief places, the opening ceremony would still have a character and importance beyond the reach of criticism. The mass of labour, capital, and enterprise represented by this exhibition entitles it to respect, and the financial success that it will undoubtedly achieve it will fully have earned.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S FLOWER SHOW.—Wednesday was a very favourable day for the flower show, which formed the second spring at the Gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Kensington, but the company was, as usual, numerous and fashionable. There was an abundant exhibition of azaleas, comprising many very choice specimens, nearly the whole of which were remarkable for that profusion of blossom, delicacy of colour, and perfection of form which fascinates prize. There was also an extensive display of rhododendrons, cinerarias, auriculas, hyacinths, pansies, amaryllis, and other blossoms appropriate to the season, all of them well worthy of a place in the society's grounds, and which were admired the more inasmuch as the lower arcade where they were arranged allowed more room for distinct classification, and a better opportunity for examining the merits of the several flowers, than was afforded in the confined space of the central chamber when the previous show was held.

MR. TRAIN'S TRAMWAYS.—The last of the controversy that has been so long continued as to the usefulness of Mr. Train's street tramways may be said to have been decided on Saturday last, when, after a two days' trial, the jury found a verdict to the effect that the tramway was a nuisance, but some points of law were reserved. Several witnesses were called to prove the inconvenience the tramway caused, and the counsel for Mr. Train and the Lambeth Vestry offered to call witnesses on the other side who would testify to the advantages they derived from it; but Chief Justice Erie, tried the case, intimated that the evidence of nineteen witnesses who did not experience the nuisance would not outweigh the testimony of one who did.

THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.—LAW AND JUSTICE.—The total estimates for "law and justice" in the year ending March 31, 1863, amount to £2,763,308, being an increase of £123,850 over the expenses for the previous year. The increase for England is £26,218; for Scotland, £18,789; for Ireland, £83,522; for prison and convict services at home and abroad, £15,291. The other item of increase is that for the Irish constabulary, which is no less than £80,421 more than the previous year.

GRASS TABLET TO EDMUND BURKE.—In the parish church of Buxton, where reposes the mortal remains of the Right Hon. Edmund Burke, a monument to him on one side of the church aisle bears the inscription, "Here lies Edmund Burke, a man who died for his country." This was set up by the frequent visitors to the place to be a serious omission. To supply the deficiency some members of the congregation, headed by Dr. Birrell, Burke, or Burke, have got together, and have caused a handsome monumental brass, inscribed in slate, to be laid down exactly over the vault of the illustrious orator and statesman.

PROGRESS OF THE POST OFFICE.

Mr. M. D. Hill read a paper "On the Post Office" at the Royal Institution last week, in which he traced its history from the commencement to its present state of development. Some approach to an arrangement for the transmission of letters existed even among the ancient Romans by the establishment of relays of horses for special messengers; but nothing of the kind was attempted in this country even so late as the reign of Henry VIII. It was in the reign of James I, that an attempt was first made to carry letters for the public, and in the succeeding reign, and in the time of Cromwell, it advanced to a rude system of conveying letters by the authority of the Government for the purpose of revenue. Mr. Hill, in sketching the progressive advancement in postal communication from that period to the present time, remarked very forcibly on the obstructions that had been made by persons in office to any improvements; and he dwelt particularly on the opposition that Mr. Palmer had to encounter when, in 1784, he undertook to convey letters in stage-coaches, instead of by the slow and insecure method previously adopted of carrying the letters on horseback or in mail-carts. Under that opposition, Palmer was ultimately obliged to succumb, though the plan he had adopted was continued and gradually improved. The slow rate at which the mails then travelled and the delays in the delivery placed the postal accommodation far behind the increased wants of correspondents, and numbers of contraband letters were sent by other means in order to gain time, though heavy penalties were imposed to check that practice. On one occasion a bag, containing upwards of 500 letters, was seized at the warehouse of a public carrier, who offered the Post Office authorities £500 as a compromise for the penalties incurred in order that the letters might not be delayed. This imperfect state of the administration of the Post Office occasioned many remonstrances, and numerous endeavours were made at reform; but as the postal arrangements of this country were, notwithstanding their defects, far superior to those on the continent, this comparison in their favour retarded improvement. It was aid by the late Duke of Wellington that the English Post Office was the only one that did its work, and, supported by that declaration, the Post Office authorities resisted the proposed innovations. The subject of Post Office reform was brought before Parliament Session after Session by the late Mr. Wallace, M. P. for Greenock, with no other result than the appointment of Committees to inquire and the publication of many blue-books. Those blue-books, however, proved a valuable mine to Mr. Rowland Hill, when, in 1837, he undertook to investigate the management of the Post Office with a view to its effectual reform. Up to that period he had not been inside a post-office, but the evidence contained in the blue-books enabled him to establish a case in support of reform, and of the advantages to be derived from it, which overpowered all opposition. Mr. M. D. Hill commented sarcastically on some of the evidence recorded as having been given by persons in authority at the Post Office against reform at various times. A remonstrance having been made by the inhabitants of Warwick against the delay occasioned by their letters being sent round by way of Coventry, a satisfactory answer was given to the Treasury, in the time of Charles II, that the letters were sent direct a lower rate of postage must be charged. In a somewhat similar spirit it was objected, in more recent times, that it was not advisable letters should be carried so quickly as the writers could travel themselves; and a speed of seven miles an hour was objected to as too rapid. Mr. Palmer's endeavour to protect the mail-bags from being plundered, by appointing guards to the mail-coaches, was opposed on the ground that if several desperate fellows were determined to attack the mail-coaches might lead to murder. On such like pretences reforms had been resisted; but the increasing number of contraband letters, notwithstanding the threatened penalties, showed the necessity of a change of system, and, after having encountered much opposition, Mr. Rowland Hill succeeded in procuring a trial of his system of penny postage in 1840. The foundation on which his calculations rested was the number of letters transmitted through the Post Office in a year. He estimated the number, from the money returns in 1837, to be 73,000,000. The Post Office authorities at first denied the correctness of that estimate, and said the number did not exceed 40,000,000; but the amended return made the number appear to be within 3,000,000 of Mr. Hill's estimate. Taking into consideration the great number of contraband letters that would be sent through the post if increased facilities of transmission and delivery were effected, and the greater number of letters that would be written with a reduced postage, he arrived at the conclusion that a uniform postage of one penny would pay the cost and ultimately produce an increased revenue. The results have fully borne out those calculations; and Mr. M. D. Hill, towards the conclusion of his paper, stated some of the advantages that have been obtained by the Post Office reform established by his brother, Sir Rowland Hill, among which were the following:—In 1838 about one-fourth of the whole population of England were destitute of postal communication, there being then only 3000 post-offices, whereas at the present day there are 11,000. The deliveries of letters from all parts of the country have been greatly increased, and instead of one delivery in London there are now three day mails to many places. In the London district there were formerly six deliveries in a day, now there are eleven; and a letter posted at six o'clock in the evening is delivered, within six miles, the same night instead of being kept from two o'clock in the afternoon till next morning. Since the division of London into ten postal districts each district is considered a separate town, to and from the chief office of which the letters of the district are sent and delivered, instead of being forwarded, as formerly, to the central office in St. Martin's-le-Grand. By this arrangement, and by the increased facility afforded by means of prepayment by stamp, the early delivery of letters in London is completed by nine o'clock, at which hour so recently as 1813 it only began. In addition to the saving of postage on inland letters, by a uniform rate of one penny, the charge on foreign letters has also been reduced in nearly a corresponding degree, so that a letter to any part of France may now be sent for the same charge as one posted from London to Chatham. The newspapers sent yearly by post have increased from 44½ millions to 72½ millions. The book post, established in 1818, has also been very successful; the number of books transmitted through the Post Office last year having amounted to 12 millions. The facilities afforded for the safe transmission of money by money orders has been so highly appreciated by the public that during 1861 the sum of £14,616,000 was so transmitted. The total number of letters sent through the Post Office during last year amounted to 393 millions, in the proportion of 24 to each individual in England, to 9 each in Ireland, and 19 to each in Scotland. In 1839 the average proportions were—each person in England 4, in Ireland 1, and in Scotland 3. The weight of the letters carried in the two periods has increased from 780 tons annually to 1300 tons. Within the United Kingdom the distances now travelled in the transmission of letters amount to 149,000 miles each day, which is equal to the entire circuits of the earth. Enormously as the transmission of letters has increased during the last twenty years, it appears by the last returns to be still progressing. Mr. Hill concluded his paper by alluding to the probable influence of this vast development of correspondence on the progress of education and civilisation.

POSTAGE-STAMP EXCHANGE.—It is well known that a mania has prevailed for a long time past for the collection of postage-stamps. For what purpose the stamps are thus actively sought after no one seems to know, but it has been said in some quarters that the possession of a large number of them will procure the admission of children into some charitable institutions, while in others it is asserted, albeit with an air of great mystery, that they will enable the holder to become the owner of a valuable gold watch, to be awarded somewhere by some body. Without pretending to endorse the slightest degree either statement, we may mention that the mania has increased to such a degree as to lead to the establishment of a postage-stamp exchange, the locality being, Change-alley, leading out of Birchin-lane. There, every evening, about fifty boys, and some men too, may be seen industriously exchanging old disfigured stamps, most of which are carefully fastened in books. The earnestness and assiduity with which the "trade" is carried on is very remarkable, and a stranger passing is at a loss to understand the meaning of it all. Whether the police will deem it their duty, in the event of the "members" largely increasing in numbers, to order the "exchange" to "move on," so as not to block up a public thoroughfare, remains to be seen. So far, no such show of authority on the part of the public officials seems to have been requisite, the onerous duties of the members of the new institution apparently being performed with every desire to avoid inconveniencing the public.

SIMPLICITY.—At a small evening party, not very long ago, an elderly lady mentioned a family of the name of Homer much respected in a certain neighbourhood. Somebody present—with the pleasantry adapted to small parties—exclaimed, "Pray, madam, are they descended from the great Homer?" On which the old lady replied, with grave emphasis, "Oh, yes, Sir; and not a little proud they are of it, I can assure you!" This reminds one of the French Aïde who was introduced at a dinner party to a gentleman of the name of Robinson, celebrated for dressing in rather an eccentric costume—a green coat, hunting-cap, and buckskin breeches. The Abbé thrice lifted his fork to his mouth, and thrice laid it down with an eager stare of surprise; then suddenly burst out with, "Excuse me, Sir. Are you the famous Robinson Crusoe so remarkable in history?"

A FRENCH BREACH-OF-PROMISE CASE.—Two girls bring, simultaneously, actions for a breach of promise of marriage against a young man at Frankfort. The youth admits the justice of their claims. "How happy could he be with either, were the other dear charmer away!" He had promised to marry both, and was ready to keep his word to both, if the Judges would stretch a point and permit polygamy for once. He expressed his readiness to marry either of the claimants which the Judges should accord him, if they would not sanction his Mormonist proposition. The Judges bestowed the richer of the two claimants upon him, but ordered her to pay 300 florins out of her dowry to the unsuccessful fair one. An odd system of jurisprudence!

LAW AND CRIME.

The Kingston Assize has furnished the greatest number of reports of legal trials during the week. The cases have not generally been interesting. The Surrey Assize is a favourite with that peculiar class of attorneys whose names most practitioners can enumerate on their fingers, whose principal vocation appears to be to take up the cause of penniless plaintiffs against responsible defendants on grounds of action more or less supposititious. Ordinarily the defendant is terrified into a compromise; sometimes he fights against a notice of trial only to discover that the cause is not set down, or, if set down, is withdrawn, after every possible expense has been incurred by himself. Sometimes the cause is tried, and defendant is condemned in damages by a blundering jury; sometimes he is allowed to gain, and finds that his antagonist is a mere ragamuffin; and all that comes of the matter is that the winning party has to pay his own costs. Such is the delightful state of English law at the present date.

If you happen to be a scoundrel and a vagabond, and want five pounds, all that you have to do is to threaten some one who can manage to spare ten—but not twenty—with an action for assault, even although he may never have seen you in his life. You will find certain attorneys quite ready to take up your case on liberal terms, and to share any amount to be recovered of the unfortunate defendant.

The case of the summons by Miss Waldron against Miss Norton (niece of the Hon. G. C. Norton) for detention of a terrier dog may perhaps still be remembered by our readers. It appears that the *Morning Post* published upon the subject a jocular letter from a correspondent who wrote about spinsters of a certain age who, failing human admirers, appeared to make idols of fancy dogs. The writer pointed out, in contradistinction to the squabble about the terrier in question, a report of a case in which a labouring man had been sentenced to six months' imprisonment on a charge of dogstealing. Miss Waldron's legal advisers discovered a libel in this communication, and brought an action against the publisher of the *Morning Post*. The Judge directed the jury that, if the letter were such as to render the plaintiff ridiculous in society, she might be entitled to their verdict. The jury found for the plaintiff that the article complained of was libellous, and they awarded her, as their estimate of the damage she sustained by being rendered ridiculous, the sum of one farthing.

Mr. Kennedy, whose connection with the famous Swinfen case, and whose success in his action against Mrs. Broun (formerly Mrs. Swinfen, and his client) we reported last week, has written to the *Times* in reply to certain strictures published by the press upon his conduct. He states that he gave up a business worth more than £800 per annum to espouse the cause of Mrs. Swinfen, at her express entreaty. He confesses to his "error" and his "weakness" in his abuse of the counsel employed against him. But he insists upon the repetition of the shamefully scandalous insinuation—not allegation—which was one of the most infamous points in his conduct of his case against his former client. He says of Mrs. Swinfen, "She exerted all her arts to win me—she was not a young woman—she succeeded." He has formerly condemned his own weakness in the same matter in idealising "a heroine out of a scullery-maid." So that now this highminded, romantic, elderly youth in a barrister's wig calls upon the public for sympathy for his having yielded to the "arts" of an elderly female! This is purely, be it remembered, his own statement of his case in his own words. "We pledged our love to each other," says he. "For this I have but one excuse—which is too dreadful to mention, but which was well known to her, for she had visited my house half a dozen times and knew all my family secrets." So that a somewhat elderly female may ensure the "love" of Mr. Kennedy by learning secrets "too dreadful to mention," but which may be learned in half a dozen visits to the learned gentleman's house. Can the dreadful secret be that Kennedy wears a wig? But, after all, the gist of the matter is the twenty thousand pounds. Who cares about Mr. Kennedy's love affairs? or whether his statements with respect thereto be true or false? All that the public knows is that he has sued his client for twenty thousand pounds, and that to support his case he has needlessly tried to blacken his character as he has confessed to having heretofore attempted in "weakness" and in "error" to impugn two of the most unsullied names in the land. He never mentions in his letter the fact that the munificent sum of £10,000 was offered him for his services and by him refused.

The long-pending indictment against Mr. Train and the Lambeth vestrymen for a nuisance in laying down and permitting the omnibus tramway from Westminster to Kennington was tried this week. The learned Judge directed the jury that, although the tramway might be a convenience to ninety-nine persons out of a hundred, the hundredth had legal ground of complaint if it were a nuisance to him. The jury hereon found Mr. Train "Guilty." With respect to the vestry, the verdict is suspended for the opinion of the Judges in banco. The sentence upon Mr. Train is also postponed. It will not be very dreadful.

POLICE.

"NO BUSINESS TO MURDER THE MAN."—Sarah Beech was charged with maliciously cutting and wounding Edward Beech, her husband, with a knife, and nearly severing the nose from his face. The prosecutor was unable to leave his bed; and a medical certificate was given to the effect that he was in danger.

A policeman said that on Sunday he was on duty in Newington-cumsew, when he was informed that a woman had murdered her husband in Tiverton-street, close by. Witness proceeded there, and saw the prisoner in a very excited state. He was shown into a room, where he saw the injured man. His nose had been cut so deep down from the bridge that it nearly hung from a piece of skin above the upper lip. The prisoner was pointed out to the party who inflicted the wound, and he took her into custody. Witness understood that the prisoner and her husband had been quarrelling all the morning, and that in her passion she snatched up the knife, rushed at him, and cut him over the nose with it.

The prisoner is said that the man was not her husband, and had so grossly ill-treated her that he drove her to desperation.

Mr. Burcham told her that it was little whether

she was married or not; she had no business to murder her man.

The prisoner said she struck her first, and in a state of irritation she snatched up the knife to defend herself.

Mr. Burcham observed that, according to the medical certificate, Mrs. Beech was apprehended, and if that took place death might soon follow. Under those circumstances, he should remand her for a week.

EXTRAORDINARY SENTENCE.—Richard Burt, alias Burke, and John White, alias Clancy, were charged as follows:

Louise Lovell, a milliner, said about eleven o'clock at night she was returning home along Oxford-street, and, when near James-street, her mistress, whom she had been with, gave her 4s. and left. She had scarcely left her when the prisoner Burt gave her (witness) a severe blow on her hand, which knocked 3s. out of it. They both began to look about, and Burke picked up something. She asked him for it, when he pulled his hand out of his pocket and laughed at her. The police came up and took them both.

Mr. Mansfield sentenced Burt (against whom a former conviction was proved) to three months' hard labour, and discharged Clancy.

If three months' hard labour be the punishment for highway robbery, accompanied by assault, upon a woman, or a convicted thief, the criminal interest is to be congratulated.

SHOPKEEPERS, LOOK OUT!—An application was made to the Hon. G. C. Norton for his advice in the following case of heartless fraud.

The applicant stated that some days ago his sister opened a shop in the stationery line in Camberwell, and on the day before a young woman, having the appearance of a servant in a respectable family, called and requested to be shown some drawing-pencils of the best description, saying her master had sent her for six dozen of different sorts. The pencils required being of an expensive kind, and such as were not ordinarily kept in small shops, his (applicant's) sister was not provided with them. The young woman said her master was not in a particular hurry for the article, and, having left a list of the different sorts to be required, promised to call next morning to receive and pay for them. Soon after she left a person drove up to the shop door in a light cart, and carried in various specimens of toys, stationery, and pencils, and, on being asked whether he had any of the descriptions ordered by the young woman, he replied in the affirmative, and eighteen dozen of the different sorts were selected. For these he made out a bill and was paid £5, and drove away, and the pencils were laid by for the gentleman's servant; but she did not make her appearance as expected, and this circumstance having created a suspicion, the pencils were carefully examined, and were found to be absolutely worthless, the whole lot not being of the value of 5s.

The magistrate remarked that it was a heartless species of fraud, and told the applicant he would be perfectly justified in giving the man with the light cart into custody wherever he saw him.

CAPITAL SENTENCES.—Seven persons have been sentenced to death at the Lent A-sizes for murder. Of these three have been executed—viz., William Charlton, at Carlisle, for the murder of an aged female gate-keeper on a line of railway, who was supposed to have in her cottage a small sum of money, which it was the object of the murderer, an engine-driver on the same line of railway, to obtain; John Gould, at Reading, for the murder of his own child by cutting her throat; and Richard Rowan, at Banchory, or the murder of his wife's mother. Arrests were made in each of these three cases to the mercy of the Crown; but the offences were of so hooking and aggravated a character as to render any reference with the sentence altogether inconsistent with the due administration of justice. One other convict, Richard Thorley, remains for execution at Derby. He was convicted of the murder of a young woman who refused to receive his addresses by cutting her throat in a most cruel and barbarous manner; and, as no attempt has been made to procure a commutation of his sentence, it is all but certain, considering the nature of the offence, that the law will be left to take its course. In the case of George Clark, who was convicted at Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the murder of a tax-collector in that town, it was found after his trial that he was in an unsound state of mind, and, upon medical certificates of that fact, his sentence has been respite, in order that he may be placed under observation and dealt with as his mental condition may seem to require. With respect to the two remaining prisoners, John Hall and Ishmael Jones, the former convicted at Oxford of shooting a game-keeper in the service of Viscount Dillon, and the latter, at Montgomery, of murdering his wife in a paroxysm of jealousy, it appears upon inquiry that there were certain extenuating facts in the respective cases, and that, under the circumstances, the ends of justice might be satisfied without the infliction of the extreme penalty of the law. Their sentences have, therefore, been commuted to penal servitude for life. It is not expected that any other capital convictions will take place at these Assizes, which have been heavy.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

The new Egyptian Loan has made its appearance, and been duly subscribed for by the public. The amount to be raised is £1,810,000 in 7 per cent. bonds of £2, 95 2*ds*, issued at 92*ds*.

The description also shows applications for about £3,000,000, and translation have taken place in the scrip, at 1*ds* 2*ds*.

We have very little change to note in the size of Home Security, and the market, generally, has continued devoid of animation.

Councils for Money have realised 9*ds* 2*ds*, and for the sum of £1,350, 9*ds* 2*ds* Reduced and New Three per Cent. have sold at 92*ds* 2*ds* Exchequer Bills, 1*ds* to 2*ds* prem.

India Stocks, &c., have been less active than last week.

India Stock has realised 2*ds*; Dittos, New, 10*ds* 2*ds* Dittos Four Cent Rupee Paper, 1*ds* 2*ds* Dittos Five per Cent 10*ds* 2*ds*; Dittos Five and a Half per Cent 10*ds* 2*ds*; Dittos Debentures have sold at 10*ds* 2*ds*; and the Bonds 1*ds* to 2*ds*.

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